

*Finger Lakes Trail Conference  
Annual Membership Meeting draft minutes  
June 16, 2012  
Keuka College*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** See attendance sheet in FLTC Office

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donna Flood, Cate Concannon, Roger Hopkins, Jon Bowen, John A-X Morris, Phil Dankert, Phil Metzger, Sigi Schwinge, Melanie Okoniewski

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Steve Catherman, Jarret Lobb, Pat Monahan, Roy Dando, Ron Navik, Jacqui Wensich, Peter Wybron, Lynda Rummel, Quinn Wright.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gene Bavis

**BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS ABSENT:** Gail Merian, Ken Reek, David Drum, Pat Haynes

A motion was made to open the meeting by Sigi Schwinge. Melanie Okoniewski seconded the motion and the meeting was called to order at 3:05PM.

**Opening Comments – President, Pat Monahan:**

Pat asked that there be a moment of silence in honor of Gerry Benedict who died while doing trail work on an Alley-Cat project in the Catskills recently.

Pat then welcomed Dick Hubbard as the new Executive Director for the FLTC.

**Review and Approval of 2011 Minutes – Secretary, Roy Dando**

Copies of the 2011 minutes were made available to anyone in attendance. No comments were pending. Phil Dankert moved to suspend reading of the 2011 annual minutes, and to accept the minutes as presented. Donna Flood seconded the motion. **APPROVED.**

**Introduction of Current, Outgoing and Nominated New Board Members – President, Pat Monahan**

Today the membership, through absentee proxy or voice vote, will choose the incoming Board Class of 2015. One member of the outgoing Class of 2012, Roger Hopkins agreed to serve another term. Pat introduced the current Board members and the incoming members, Doug Cunningham, Greg Farnham, Laurie Ondrejka and Terry Meacham. Pat also thanked the outgoing members of the class of 2012 for their dedicated service: Ken Reek, Pat Haynes, Phil Metzger and John A-X Morris.

There were no nominations from the floor. Gene Bavis received 247 proxy votes in favor of the above nominees, 4 void and 12 left blank.

A motion was made by Dick Hubbard and seconded by Phil Dankert for the secretary to cast one vote to accept the nominations as presented. **APPROVED.**

Welcome to the class of 2015. Roger Hopkins has named this Class the “Phun Class”.

\*Pat Thanked Peter Wybron for his 16 years of dedication to the conference as its Treasurer and welcomed Quinn Wright as the new Treasurer.

\*Pat thanked Jacqui Wensich for her years of dedication as VP of Membership and Marketing as she will step down. Gene Bavis will step in until January 1, 2013 when Peggy Coleman, President of the Steuben County Visitor’s Bureau will officially become VP.

\*Pat welcomed Matt Branneman as new Director of Crews and Construction replacing Quinn as he becomes Treasurer.

\*Pat welcomed Greg Farnham as Director of Inventory and Mapping. He will replace Joe Dabes in that role.

\*\*Pat noted that Jo Taylor will be stepping down as the Editor of the FLTC Newsletter after the summer edition is mailed. No one has yet to step up to fill that spot.

There were no other nominations for board members from the floor so Dick Hubbard motioned to accept the aforementioned slate of 5. Phil seconded and the slate was approved.

Welcome to the class of 2015 now dubbed “The Phun Class” by Roger.

**Report of Financial Status of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference –  
Treasurer, Peter Wybron: See Written Report and Jarret Lobb, VP of Finance**

\*Peter was happy to report that the FLTC ended 2011 in excellent financial health. The firm of Freed Maxick CPAs audited our 2011 financial records. In their opinion, the financial statements presented fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the FLTC as of December 31, 2011, and the changes in our net assets and our cash flows for 2011 ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Total support and revenue for 2011 of \$185,138 reflected an increase in net assets of \$31,524.

\*Peter thanked the members of this organization for their continued support. Without it, the FLTC would not exist.

\*Jarret Lobb noted that this past year was a turbulent one for the bond and equities markets. The Conference earned \$800-\$900 income from these investments.

**Major issues facing the conference—President, Pat Monahan**

\*Hydro-fracking and the position taken by the Board of Managers. See the statement on the FLT website.

\*The destruction of trail in Madison County on the North Country Trail. The NCTA will pursue the remedy to this situation. The FLTC will provide some financial support to the effort to return the trail to its original condition as a footpath.

\*The Crystal Hills Trail, a part of the Great Eastern Trail, still has 10 miles to be build before we can claim it is completely done. Pat expects this to be accomplished in 2012.

\*Pat reported that there was a fatality on the trail this spring. Gerry Benedict was killed when struck by a falling tree during on Alley-Cat project in the Catskill region. The trail team had an emergency conference call following this tragic event to discuss how to proceed with work in the future. It was decided to put a moratorium on chainsaw work during Alley Cat work crews until further notice. At the upcoming BOM meeting Pat will form a committee to look into safety of trail workers, especially workers who are part of crews operating chainsaws.

\*Pat noted that this will be a year of many transitions within the organization. Many people currently taking on important roles will switch positions and many new faces will be joining the board.

### **Report of FLTC Activities and Accomplishments – Executive Director, Gene Bavis**

\*Gene noted that this will be his last ED report at the annual meetings.

\*Technology innovations have been amazing this year. The store is up and running on the website. There is now an interactive map on the website. Maps are now available for download at the website's store.

\*Paper map sales have been good this year. There are several retail outlets that are currently selling them. There have been over 150,000 maps sold over the past 6 years!

\*There were over 26,000 hours of volunteer labor put into the trail this year alone.

\*Finances are sound with the asset balance rising for all of the past 11 years.

\*The Forever Society had 2 new members this year.

\*A new fund has been created for the purpose of building 20 new lean-to structures on the trail in the foreseeable future. It is called the "Buy a Log Program". Each new structure costs approximately \$3500 for materials so 35 separate "Logs" will be sold to fund each shelter. Currently there have been enough logs sold to purchase 2 entire lean-to structures. One of these was completely funded by board members, officers and office staff.

\*The Amazing One Day End to End hike of the entire main trail was accomplished on June 2. Over 550 hikers walked portions of the trail that day with one of the 75 different hike leaders. That is almost exactly one hiker per mile! Over 250 people attended 5 different post hike get togethers across NY State. It is hoped that this event will increase awareness in the trail now and in the future. Much media attention was give to this event.

\*The summer edition of the FLT News is out and should be in your mailbox shortly. If anyone knows of someone who would like to become the editor, please contact Pat Monahan, Dick Hubbard or myself as this will be Jo's last edition.

\*Dick Hubbard has become the new Executive Director. He was hired in March, started training with Gene on April 1 and officially took over the job on June 1.

\*There will be a raffle and a silent auction held tonight after dinner.

New Business:

\*Pat officially thanked Gene for his devotion to the trail for 11 years as its Executive Director and yielded the floor to Dick.

\*Dick said that the Forever Society currently has 47 members and he has made it his goal to raise that to at least 50 in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At that point Lynda Rummel and Rolf Zerges joined as #48, Stephanie Spittal as #49 and Phil and Tammy Metzger as #50!

**Q&A:**

Bill Coffin gave a brief statement regarding the destruction of trail on the NCT in Madison County. He asks that the Board of Managers pay special attention in the future to stopping the push for multi-use trails.

**Pat Monahan thanked the membership for their monetary and volunteer service throughout the year.**

Mary Domanski motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 3:47, Melanie Okoniewski seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

## **MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED**

Meeting Agenda

Minutes from May 21, 2011 Annual Membership Meeting

Finance/Investment Report