

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
June 8, 2019 4:00 pm
University at Pittsburgh at Bradford, PA

Status: FINAL

Members and Officers Present: see attached sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER at 4:02—President, Pat Monahan
MOTION TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE ANNUAL MEETING
1st Nero, 2nd Ogden >>**Approved**

WELCOME/OPENING COMMENTS — Pat Monahan

- Thank you for attending the annual meeting, wonderful facility
- Thank you to Claudia Lawler, Donna Flood and Foothills Trails Club for coordinating and hosting this year's event
- Great day to be outdoors; hopefully everyone had the chance to hike
- Moment of silence to remember: Horst Scwhinge, Tom Reimers, Dr. Collins (from ABC Ranch) ○
 Reflect on their contributions to family, trail and their communities
 - Memorial service on Sunday for Tom Reimers at the Arboretum
- Reminder to sign-in
- Distribution of draft minutes and meeting agenda

APPROVAL OF 2018 MINUTES—Secretary, Lori Chiarilli

- No discussion or additions.

1st Meacham, 2nd Nero >>**Approved**

INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT, OUTGOING, AND NOMINATED NEW BOARD MEMBERS—Pat Monahan

- Intro to officers and board members in attendance.
- Thank you to Class of 2019 Board of Manager members completing their terms: Scott Brooks, Anna Keeton, Bob Kremens, Terry Meacham and Laurie Ondrejka
- Welcome to new and returning officers (pending Board of Managers approval on 6/9/19):
 President—Pat Monahan; Secretary—Lori Chiarilli; Vice President of Finance—vacant; Vice President of Trail Preservation—David Newman; Vice President of Membership and Marketing—Steve Czajkowski; Vice President of Trail Maintenance—vacant: Vice President of Trail Quality—Lynda Rummel; Vice President of Mapping—Greg Farnham; and Director of Crews and Construction—Mike Schlicht, Treasurer— Willa Powell

VOTE ON BOARD MEMBERS PLACED IN NOMINATION—for Peg Fuller, Scott Geiger, Roger Hopkins, Tim Sweeney, PeTer Wybron

- We have 5 nominees moving forward this year.
- No nominations to the office in advance according to by laws or comments from the general membership.
- Motion approved by all 14 members present; no opposing votes.
- Absentee ballots: 220 for, 0 opposing, 24 incomplete

Motion to approve the slate of candidates for the Class of 2022 Board of Managers as recommended by the Nominating Committee 1st Bayley, 2nd Flood >>**Approved**

REPORT OF FINANCIAL STATUS OF FLTC

CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION AND FUND BALANCES—Treasurer, Willa Powell/Quinn Wright

- June 5 2018; November 2018 first report – Freed Maxick financial review 4 years; 2018 review no modifications required; in compliance with current accounting practices
- Consistent financial position with last year
- Review of financial activity, slight gap in membership; unbudgeted revenue via bequests off-set market/membership losses
- Operating costs remain consistent over time
- Additional details or a copy of the summary are available

Monahan: appreciative of financial support that we continue to receive

GENERAL COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES— VP of Finance, Charles Schutt/Quinn Wright

- No representatives on hand.
- Resignation of the VP of Finance, critical to organization--need to be filled

REPORT OF BOARD ACTIVITY—Pat Monahan

- 3 hats: life is good (2) and FLT (1)
- Building and maintaining trail original organization focus
- We've been fortunate to be able to focus on the "forever" aspect of our mission having just accepted our 100th trail easement – thank you to Dave Newman and those who've worked with landowners to make this a reality.
- Over the last year, 3 issues
 - Club vs. business. Rooted in/as a club historically. We now are a hybrid of each.
 - Lack of volunteers to support aspects of the organization has been an increasing challenge. VP of Trail Maintenance – is now over 3 years vacant; VP of Finance recent vacancy – realized competing interests not able to contribute time needed to support the organization and others
 - Long Range Planning Document was in place; but over the last year or so, we've realized that we needed more; and that we needed outside help to create a strategic plan to help the organization realize our future. We engaged a consultant, Jennifer Patrick, from Canisius College to facilitate strategic planning sessions. Electronic surveys to board members and stakeholders; 4 sub-groups – helped us create board strategic maps for: Board of Directors; Trail Maintenance; Land Ownership and Quality; Branding-Public

Relations-Marketing; Fundraising; and Membership and Clubs. During the process we recognized the need for financial planning to support our efforts in moving forward. ○

Phase 1: 2019-2022

- complete market research related to the plan
- Hire for key positions:
 - a public relations/communication staff member
 - a trails management professional (part-time)
- Roving crews to support the trails
 - Identify and collaborate with like-minded clubs and organization
- Phase 2: 2023-2025
 - establish and maintain our financial position
 - increase the trail management professional to full-time status
 - continue to use roving crews
 - ensure succession planning for Board members and key volunteers
- During our May board meeting we accepted the plan, with only 1 opposing vote ○ We will continue with most activities – keep the good (baseline) and add to it; with a budget to support our efforts
- Initial loss with new hires; but it will come from our reserves rather than borrowing. So, we'll be investing in ourselves.
- Whenever we can find volunteers we will; but when we can't, we will pay to support work to ensure the organization's future
- Plan gives us a clear direction. If we follow the strategic plan, we have a direction that we will continue to use to guide our future.
- Membership will be updated like today's meeting, via the magazine, via the Google group, Facebook, Presidents Council and other activities.

Any questions on that?

Hopkins: What does roving crews mean? Alley Cats? Maybe – still to be determined how that works, what it might look like. Recent trouble with filling Alley Cat crews this year.

Fuller: suggest care when paying vs. relying on volunteers

REPORT OF FLTC Activities and Accomplishments—Quinn Wright

- As just reported, strategic planning has been significant this year
 - Catskills has been a challenging area due to a lack of local club stewardship – and no volunteers

Wensich: central place to post/record alley cat volunteers and skill sets to help with future projects?

Nero: this idea could relate to database project.

Nero: our first Trail Days (underwritten by Steuben Visitors and Conference Bureau) will take place on July 26 & 27 on the Steuben County Fairgrounds in Bath.

- A variety of activities are planned: cool, non-motorized activities you can do on/around the trail; live music (Grammy and the Voice award-winners are providing the music); guided hikes; talks/demonstrations; ropes course for kids; geocaching; climbing wall; edible plants lecture and

more.

- Ticket availability/schedule: <https://www.fingerlakestraildays.com/>
- If you sign up to volunteer – you get free admission that day. Sign-up sheet here, and flyers. ● Steuben County is covering the cost of the event; sponsorships and volunteer workers/speakers are making things possible with no financial costs to the FLT. North Country Trail and Steuben County have supported the part-time intern salary for this project.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

None.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

1st Nero, 2nd Newlun >>**Approved**

THE MISSION OF THE FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE IS TO BUILD, MAINTAIN, ENHANCE and PROMOTE A CONTINUOUS FOOTPATH ACROSS NEW YORK STATE. FOREVER!