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MINUTES OF THE WINTER MEETING of the NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

February 28, 2015

1. Chris Connolly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. at Manhattan College, Riverdale, New York.
2. Minutes. The minutes of the October 18, 2014 Annual Meeting were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Rick Levine reported that final total construction cost projections for the Trail Conference Headquarters at the Darlington Schoolhouse remain covered by pledged donations and grants. Increased end-of-year revenues reduced the budget-anticipated loss for 2014.
4. New Member Organization. It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that the application of The Storm King School to join the Trail Conference be approved.
5. Member Dues Increase. It was moved, seconded and carried, by a vote of 22 yeas to 2 nays, that the Basic Individual Rate be increased from \$30 to \$40 and the Basic Family/Joint Rate from \$40 to \$50.

Patty Lee Parmalee suggested a discount rate for trail maintainers, crew workers and chainsawyers, especially in hard-to-recruit-volunteer regions. Jack Driller suggested a no-fee Life Member membership for senior volunteers similar to that offered by AMC. Vincent Scelzo, whose club runs ads promoting Trail Conference membership in its newsletter, asked how the Trail Conference can better work with its member clubs to promote the Trail Conference. Chris Connolly said that he would forward these ideas to the Membership & Development Committee.
6. Report of Executive Director. Ed Goodell reported on the Trail Conference's activities during the last quarter of 2014. Richard Barr complimented Ed for the Trail Conference's efforts to stop casino development proposals in Tuxedo and Woodbury.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

ATTENDANCE BY VOTING MEMBERS:

Richard Barr - Catskill 3500 Club/NY Ramblers
John Butler - Friends of Van Cortland Park
Chris Connolly - Board Chair
Jane Daniels - Trail Chair
Walt Daniels - Board Member
Jack Driller - Delegate-at-Large
Charlotte Fahn - Board Member
Taras Ferencevych - The Storm King School
Mark Fromm - Friends of the Hackensack Greenway in Teaneck
David Hogenauer - TriState Ramblers
Gaylord Holmes - Board Member
Richard Katzive - Board Member
Rick Levine - Board Treasurer
Alice Luddington-Cantor - Delegate-at-Large

John Mack - Trail Chair
Jon Magerlein - Board Member
Thomas McGlinchey - Alley Pond Environmental Center
George O'Lear - Westchester Trails Association
Donald Pachner - Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group & Atlantic Chapter Outings Committee
Patty Lee Parmalee - Trail Chair/Save the Ridge, Inc.
Beth Ravit - Board Member
Ruth Rosenthal - Delegate-at-Large
Luise Schwabe - Thendara Mountain Club
Vincent Scelzo - Urban Hiking Club
Doug Sohn - Delegate-at-Large
Chris Tausch - ADK North Jersey/Ramapo Chapter
Dan Van Engel - Delegate-at-Large
James Van Tassell - Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference
Ed Walsh, Sr. - LP North
Patsy Wooters - Board Secretary/Torne Valley Preservation Association
Robert Ward - Delegate-at-Large



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Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO)

Founded in 2008, MEVO uses volunteers, mostly high school/college age from Mahwah and neighboring towns, who have logged 18,000+ hours carrying out projects to promote environmental sustainability throughout local communities. Directly relevant to the Trail Conference is MEVO's Earth Crew summer intern program, which sponsors volunteer leaders and members to carry out recycling bin distribution, clean-up and trail construction/rehabilitation projects. The Earth Crew has spent over 800 hours performing trail crew work on our trails in Bergen, Passaic and Rockland Counties.



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2015 Board delegates at large nominating

The Nominating Committee of the Trail Conference has presented for the October 22, 2015 annual meeting a slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Directors (for three-year terms) and as Delegates-at-Large (for one-year terms). A list of all the candidates can be found at the following [link](http://www.nynjtc.org/news/board-delegate-nominations-2015): <http://www.nynjtc.org/news/board-delegate-nominations-2015>



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2015 Proposed Bylaws Amendments

As announced in the summer edition of the Trail Walker, the Board of Directors at its May 26 meeting approved for consideration by the Voting Members (delegates) proposed amendments to the Trail Conference's bylaws. The proposed amendments are to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, October 22 at 7 p.m. at the Darlington Schoolhouse Headquarters in Mahwah, NJ.

A clean copy of the bylaws with all proposed amendments is contained in the link below. A red-line marked-up version of the bylaws showing all proposed changes to the existing bylaws is contained in the second link below. Finally, a summary of the proposed amendments is included in the third link below. In brief, the amendments fall within three main categories:

1. Changes required by the NY Nonprofit Revitalization Act of 2013 that came into effect on July 1, 2014
2. Changes suggested by the Steering Committee Reorganization Proposal approved by the Board on May 26, 2015
3. Various stylistic and cosmetic changes to better organize the bylaws' subject matter

Click on link at <http://www.nynjtc.org/bylaws2015>