



General Meeting Minutes Lehigh Valley ATV Association, Inc. 5/11/2023

Wm Mello called to order the regular meeting of Lehigh Valley ATV Association at 7 pm on May 11, 2023 at the Quakertown Family Diner

Roll Call

Present:

Wm Mello, Cathy Walker, Phil Santaniello, Gene Sutton, Ann Sutton, Tim Kristie, Rose Kristie, Steve Skolnick, Rhonda Zartman, Glen Godshall, Carrie Dubiel, Ken Ziegler, Andrew S. Cushman, Phil Olkowitz, Fred Botfield, Peter Braeunis, Phil Masters, Jack Clark, Jim Allen

Via Zoom: Conner Dearth

Approval of Minutes

- Secretary **Carrie Dubiel** read the minutes from the April 13, 2023 Meeting
Following a motion to strike **Jack Clark's** report of the current 501(c)3 condition, **Tim Kristie** made a motion to approve, seconded by **Wm Mello** Revised minutes have been approved.

Treasurer's report*

- Tim Kristie** reported on the prior month's finances after previously emailing same to the Board. After reporting on the accounting, same was approved following a motion by **Gene Sutton**, seconded by **Jack Clark**.

*Please note that the Treasurer's report is available to current members by request

Legislative Report

Jack Clark

*Please see attached report submitted by Jack.

Open Matters

- Release of Liability form**
Wm Mello and **Tim Kristie** continue to seek an attorney for guidance regarding a release of liability form that would be modified from a per event form to an annual form.
- Membership form update**
Wm Mello reiterated the need to add emergency contacts to the membership forms.
- Tax issues**
Jack Clark recapped the need to resolve the 501(c)3 situation. Following his comments, **Wm Mello** appointed **Jack** to continue to seek resolution of the matter. **Jack** will report back next month with his progress.

Wm Mello once again expressed the need for the following positions (detailed job descriptions will follow):

- IT**
- Safety Director**
Phil Masters spoke to several points regarding a Safety Director and possible certification options. Following much discussion among those present, it was decided that the intent of the position would be to promote safety. Phil will speak to an attorney and insurance agent to clarify the liability and benefits of such a position and report back. The role may be changed to Safety Event Coordinator rather than Safety Director given the current litigious climate.

New Members

Andy Cushman announced the following new member:

- Conner Dearth – Via Zoom**

New business

Housekeeping:

Wm Mello approved **Cathy Walker's** request for the purchase of new patches and membership cards.
Ken Ziegler will check into printing a new logo with his contact and report back at the next meeting.



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Ride Schedule

- May 19, 20, 21 Whiskey Springs – Clean Up (Gene Sutton)
- May 26-27 Snow Shoe, PA
- June 10 Tar Hollow, Hancock NY
- June 15-18 Tug Hill – Father’s Day
- June 16-18 Potato City – Lyman Run
- September 19-23 Northern Outdoors – Forkes ME (Phil Masters)

For the Good of the Order

Peter Braeunis showed all present a twist throttle converter
Wm Mello encouraged all present to “Get out and ride”

Adjournment

- **Wm Mello** adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm

Submission and approval of minutes

- Minutes respectfully submitted by Carrie Dubiel
 - **Next meeting of the Lehigh Valley ATV Club – Thursday, June 8, 2023 at the Quakertown Diner**
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Action items:

Wm Mello and **Tim Kristie** continue to seek an attorney for guidance regarding a release of liability form that would be modified from a per event form to an annual form.

Wm Mello will report of his progress regarding the updated emergency contacts on all emergency forms.

Jack Clark has been appointed to seek resolution of the 501(c)3 matter.

Phil Masters Phil will speak to an attorney and insurance agent to clarify the liability and benefits of a Safety Event Coordinator versus a Safety Director and report back at the next meeting.

Cathy Walker will purchase of new patches and membership cards.

Ken Ziegler will check into printing a new logo with his contact and report back at the next meeting.



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Legislative Report As submitted by Jack

- **Dr Jack Clark** gave a brief report on the May 10, 2023 Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee (SAAC) Meeting which he Chairs for the DCNR. The Sproul State Forest Whiskey Springs Trail will be completely reopened this year and the final section to be renovated will not be started until after this riding season ends. The ATV Pilot Program will open on schedule with some very significant expansion now connecting the Susquehannock Trail to Whiskey Springs as well as the Haneyville Trail in Tiadaghton State Forest and many points in-between. A connector into Renovo may be completed later this summer and out of South Renovo to the Bloody Skillet Trail in 2024. Legislation needs to be passed to make the Pilot Project permanent after this year. The new Catawissa Recreation Area (near McAdoo) planning is still continuing. Surveys have identified more trails than were expected. We will keep everyone posted on the status. DCNR's Legislative Director does not expect the bill to make UTVs street legal to go anywhere. Safety training and accident reports were delivered.
- **Jack** also reported on the April 19, 2023 PAOHV meeting. They are following and supporting a number of bills related to ATV/UTV use as well as OHMs. A new proposed \$3B "Rebuild PA" bill includes a section that can provide for new ATV/UTV trails and feasibility studies. PAOHV has become much stronger with the new officers and regional representatives. Bill Ritting, from LVATV, is the regional representative for southeastern PA which includes LVATV. Discussion also covered participation in the Renovo "Cruise for A Cure" coming up on June 10, 2023.
- **Dr Clark and Bill Ritting** also participated in 2 of the 9 "Growing Outdoor Recreation for PA" stakeholder meetings recently held across the state by Dr Nathan Reigner, DCNR Director of Outdoor Recreation. There was an economic focus to the meetings but very little was said related to motorized recreation which contributes significantly to the state's economy.