

SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB MINUTES

The April 2022 meeting was held Saturday the 23rd at the home of Joe and Barbara Allis in Galeton, PA. There were 23 members present: Wanda Shirk, John Zimmer, Lois Morey, Bill Boyd, Helen Bernhardt, Roxanne & Dave McMillan, Penny & Curt Weinhold, Donna Batterson, Barb & Joe Allis, Chad Rugh, Jayne & Tom Fitzgerald, Gary Russell, Wayne Bauman, Alice & Gary Buchanan, Susie Gribble, Larry Holtzapple, Mark Clark, and Joe Thompson

Following the noon dish-to-share meal the meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by club president, Wanda Shirk. The previous October 9, 2021 meeting minutes were read by Lois Morey. John Zimmer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wayne Bauman.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Boyd:

A treasurer's report was presented.

TRAILS REPORT by Bill Boyd:

- 251 trail hours with 20 volunteers as of 3/31/2022

NEW MEMBERS submitted by Lois Morey:

- George Tenedios, Winfield, PA
- Todd Smith & Cole Smith, Conemaugh, PA (free membership given at Kettle Creek Sportsman's Show, Cross Fork, 4/9/22, from drawing –father & son)

CIRCUIT HIKER REPORT:

A couple of logs are in the process of being reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

→ Maps:

Chad Rugh and Dave McMillan gave an update on the project to get the STS map and description on a phone app and website now known as “FarOut”. (The previous name was “GutHook”.) The STS has now gone digital. The Phone App is up and live and is also accessible from a computer on the internet. People are buying and looking at the STS topographic map and waypoint descriptions. Waypoints can include information about campsites, water locations, turns, shelters, and road crossings. People are buying it from the hosting site FarOut for a one-time payment of \$12.99. Our club gets a 10% royalty for each guide purchase. This is the official and accurate online map and guide for the STS and can be updated as needed. It is under the control of the STC. The STS is the only entire east coast loop hike in the FarOut App at this point in time. The next step for our club is to promote the availability and promote purchase of the App. Chad will explore making a QR code (which points to a website or application by scanning with a mobile phone). Business cards could be printed with the QR code and information about how to purchase the App for phone or computer use. These business cards could be handed out at the STC booth at various local festivals.

A separate map-related project is underway to map out loop hikes from the STC, such as in the Cherry Springs Fire Tower vicinity. Per Wanda Shirk, there is an existing demand for loop day hikes in the three to five to eight-mile range. Visitors to the local state parks like Cherry Springs, Lyman Run, and Ole Bull often look for loop hikes. Dave McMillan, Larry Holtzapple, and Doug Wetherby are investigating and mapping out several possibilities. Dave Millan reported that loop hike maps could be available as part of the FarOut App, be available on the STC website, and possibly printed out for distribution. This loop hike mapping project is just starting.

→ Due to other priorities, the club did not apply for the Pennsylvania Trail of the Year Award.

→ There is a lot of uncertainty as to the status of the ATV situation and trails encroachment. There is no recent information available regarding status of the PA Environmental Defense Fund’s efforts to challenge increasingly widespread

use of ATV's in state forest land. ATV's are not in keeping with the PA code of forestry stewardship.

→ The STS had a booth at the Kettle Creek Outdoor Show and had sales of less than \$100. Event attendance was less than usual, possibly due to the date being changed.

NEW BUSINESS:

→ Election of Officers:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the cancellation of winter meetings, there was no March meeting with the traditional nomination of candidates.

The current officers are all willing to continue to serve another two-year term:

President: Wanda Shirk

Vice President: John Zimmer

Corresponding Secretary: Lois Morey

Recording Secretary: Lori Szymanik

Treasurer: Bill Boyd

**Advisory Board: Joe Allis, Tom Fitzgerald, Larry Holtzapple, Chad Rugh,
Curt Weinhold**

Curt Weinhold made a motion to reinstate the current slate of officers. The motioned was seconded by Alice Buchanan and the motion was approved by voice vote by members in attendance.

→ **STC Website:** Access to the original STC website www.STC-hike.org has been regained and information can now be updated.

→ **Volunteers:** Wanda Shirk pointed out how the STC has many volunteers that keep the club operating and support the club mission. Volunteers make for a successful club.

→ A reminder to install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home and do the recommended battery changes per manufacturer. There was a horrific fire in Potter County where 5 young people lost their lives due to a home fire where the home did not have smoke detectors.

→ Larry Holtzapple reported that signs are being modified by the landowner near the Williams farm where private property adjoins the trail indicating that STS hikers may pass even though the signs read “No Trespassing”.

→ CASP (Conservative Anabaptist Service Project) Trail Care Project: The original plan for six men to camp and do trail care work the month of May has changed to only one volunteer. The plan for 4 weeks of work that was in the recent Spring 2022 STC Newsletter is in question. Wanda Shirk indicated there was a still a lot up in the air. The work plan and logistics must be modified drastically. STC Club members who can help with any of the work are needed.

→ Upcoming Events List:

- *Coudersport Maple Festival* May 4-5, 2022 STC is planning to have a booth.
- *God’s Country Marathon* June 4, 2022 STC will hand out water to runners at traditional Mile 19 water station around 8:30 – 9:30 as a community service.
- *Eliot Ness Festival* in Coudersport July 15-17, 2022 STC is planning a booth.
- *Potter County Conservation District’s work weekend* in September to “Save The Hemlocks”. STC members are asked to volunteer.

→NEXT MEETING: Will be at the Lyman Run State Park Pavilion on Saturday, May 14, 2022, picnic at noon, meeting to follow.

→MEETING ADJORNED: 2:25 pm

Minutes submitted by Roxanne McMillan on behalf of Lori Szymanik