

MARCH 2024 SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB MINUTES

The March 2024 meeting was held Saturday the 9th at the Sweden Hill Church in Coudersport, PA. Members enjoyed a dish-to-pass lunch followed by a business meeting. There were 34 members in attendance:

Mary Lou Parker, Jan Thierfelder, Mike Thierfelder, John Halter, Jan Halter, Lois Morey, Roxanne McMillan, Paul Fedalen, Bill Boyd, Gary Russell, Larry Holtzapple, Joe Allis, Barbara Allis, Chris Bell, Gene Neefe, Gary Buchanan, Alice Buchanan, June Caldwell, Jayne Fitzgerald, Janet Long, Susie Gribble, John Zimmer, Bob Hayes, Curt Weinhold, Penny Weinhold, Lori Szymanik, Wanda Shirk, Chad Rugh, Wayne Baumann, Steve Erway, David Hajzus, Dave McMillan, Bill Morey, and Alan Seitzinger

President Wanda Shirk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm with the reading of the February 2024 meeting minutes by Lori Szymanik. Mike Thierfelder made a motion to accept the minutes. John Zimmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Boyd:

A treasurer's report was presented.

TRAILS REPORT by Bill Boyd:

Total hours for February are 112 hours by 8 volunteers. The total for the year, so far, is 276 hours.

NEW MEMBERS by Lois Morey:

- Paul and Courtney Fedalen, Coudersport, PA
- Luke Staudenmeier, McKees Rocks, PA
- Beth Lounsbury, Galeton, PA (Life Membership)
- Kevin and Barbara Meyer, Conestoga, PA (Family Life Membership)

CIRCUIT HIKER REPORT by Lori Szymanik:

- 1308 Thomas (Tim) Wright, Coudersport, PA
- 1309 Bonnie Wright, Coudersport, PA

OLD BUSINESS:

- A date has been decided on for the Kettle Creek Outdoor Show. It will be held on April 13, 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. This is the same day as our meeting. John Zimmer will attend the outdoor show. Bill Boyd and Lois Morey volunteered to go as well.
- As discussed in previous meetings, this is an election year. The next newsletter will include a ballot. Bill Boyd is resigning from treasurer. Steve Erway will appear on the ballot for treasurer. Joe Allis is ready to retire from the advisory board. Jan Halter has volunteered to be on the ballot for the advisory board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wanda shared news of a project to create a PA Wilds Backpacking Trail. It will be about 300 miles and incorporate 8 existing backpacking trails— Susquehannock Trail System, West Rim, Mid State Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, Black Forest Trail, Donut Hole Trail, Chuck Keiper Trail, and Quehanna Trail. Backpacker, Kevin Reilly, from Idaho, noticed that the variety of trails could be put together in Pennsylvania to form a long loop and an alternate to some of the other long trails in the United States. He has proposed a loop with the 8 trails mentioned above, forest roads, and private lands. Kevin Reilly contacted KTA. KTA is working with PA state forests and hiking associations to make this happen. About 30-40 STS miles would be included on the PA Wilds Backpacking Trail.
- Discussed the need to update the auditing committee. It is currently made up of MaryLou Parker, Bill Morey, and Lois Morey. MaryLou Parker, June Caldwell, and Larry Holtzapple have volunteered to be part of the auditing committee.

- At the February Frolic, Ed McCrea gave short presentation on Serengeti National Park in Africa. There is a need for wheelchairs. Each one costs \$350. The wheelchairs would help individuals with disabilities visit and be guides in the park. Ed McCrea would like to raise money through the organization North American Environmental Education Association for 100 wheelchairs. John Zimmer make a motion to donate \$100.00. Curt Weinhold seconded the motion. Larry Holtzapple suggested donating the whole amount. President Wanda Shirk suggested a written vote. Lois Morey shared that she personally does not feel that money should be used from treasury since donations are given with the expectations that the funds will go towards the STS. June suggested taking collection of personal funds. Alice Buchanan suggested voting no and donating. Mike Thierfelder also suggested raising the \$350 from those who want to donate. John withdrew his motion and encouraged people to donate rather than using the club's treasury. Janet Long pointed out that as a club of mobile people who get out into nature, it would be kind to help others to be mobile to enjoy nature via a wheelchair. A hat passed for donations.
- Steve Erway counted \$310.00 donated to the Serengeti National Park Wheelchairs. Members have 3 weeks to send any additional donations. Steve Erway will give a check to Ed McCrea of the total donation amount.
- Bridge Projects. The bridges we have are excellent but we need more. The following locations are in need of bridges: Jacob Run at mile 6 (Joe Allis), Hogback at mile 15 (Mark Kelly), Cherry Run at mile 22 (Larry H willing to help), Porter Branch at mile 44, Elk Horn at mile 54, Gravel Lick at mile 62 (Gary & Bill), and Stony Run at mile 66. Bill Boyd has suggested 3rd Saturdays of the month as work days. Curt Weinhold suggested that perhaps DCNR has employees that will help with bridge projects and safety measures.
- Shelter Update. We will rebuild the Gravel Lick Shelter which was leveled by a fire and add another near Cherry Springs. The location was approved by Nate Confer, District 15 Recreational Forester. He has given permission for trees to be taken down, if necessary.

- PA Environmental Defense Foundation sent a letter asking for membership renewal. Lori Szymanik made a motion to renew the membership. John Halter seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- STC member Barb Miller sent a letter asking for interest in a women's overnight hike over the summer. Three STC members expressed interest. Date to be determined.
- Announcement on next meetings: The April 2024 meeting will be held at Southwoods Nature Preserve. Following the April meeting, future meetings will be held at PA Lumber Museum. February and August meetings held at the Susquehannock Lodge and Ole Bull State Park, respectively. Lyman Run State Park will most likely be the meeting location for October. Our December meeting may be moved to 3rd Saturday of December due to a conflict with an event at the Lumber Museum.
- Penny spoke to educator Max Shank at Sinnemahoning State Park. He will lead a hike in May or June. Hikers can help with the bird count as well. Penny will send an email about the hike.
- The club requests for others to lead hikes.
- News from our forestry district: Nate Confer is our recreation forester. He has been responsible for all trails, including ATV trails. However, there will be a 2nd recreation forester hired for ATV trails. Nate Confer will be able to focus on hiking trails.
- Bill Boyd gave thanks to John and Jan Halter. They connected us with the Lumber Museum who donated wood to us. We need to get it loaded and moved to use for our projects. In the future, the museum can saw to our preferences if we want. Charter Day is tomorrow at Lumber Museum. Admission is free and Jan & John are making fritters in the mess hall!
- Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next meeting will be held at Southwoods Nature Preserve and Conference Center.

Meeting minutes taken and submitted by Lori Szymanik