# JULY 2026 SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB MINUTES

The July 2026 Meeting was held on Saturday, July 11 at the pavilion at Lyman Run State Park. A dish to pass lunch began at noon followed by a business meeting at 1:00 pm. There were 20 members in attendance: President Wanda Shirk, Vice President Janet Smith, Recording Secretary Lori Szymanik-Oliver, Elizabeth Kapoor, Bill Boyd, Curt Weinhold, Penny Weinhold, Henry Fuller, Earl Bright, Karen Bright, Rick Nelson, Doug Wetherbee, Ron Heath, Gary Buchanan, Amy Kowal, Jayne Fitzgerald, John Zimmer, Joe Allis, Barb Allis, Susan Schenck.

And 1 guest: Jeremy Fitzgerald

Following a dish-to-pass lunch, President Wanda Shirk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. June meeting minutes were read by Lori Szymanik-Oliver. Jayne Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the minutes. John Zimmer seconded the motion. Minutes adopted unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT FROM by Jay Stuckey:**

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| **BEGINNING CASH** (as of 5/30/26) | | | $4,899.26 |
| **DEPOSITS** | | | $0.00 |
| **DISBURSEMENTS** | | | $1393.75 |
| | | | |
| **ENDING CASH** (as of 5/31/26) | | | $3,505.51 |

The CD balances as of June 30, 2026 total $10,667.23

**TRAILS REPORT by Bill Boyd:**

- For the month of June 335 volunteer hours were submitted. The total hours for the year are 1225.

**NEW MEMBERS by Lois Morey:**

- No new members to report.

**CIRCUIT HIKER REPORT by Lori Szymanik:**

- 1371 Chris “Chicken Fat” LeBlanc, Morrisville, NC
- 1372 Curtis “Bear Bait” Mamzic, Odenton, MD
- 1373 Joseph Joyce, Bushkill, PA
- 1374 Stuart O. Smith, Jr, South Euclid, OH

**HIKE REPORT:**

- Members enjoyed Larry Holtzapple’s hike through the laurel blooms at Cherry Springs. They also enjoyed Penny Weinhold’s kayaking excursion at Sinnemahoning State Park.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Red Suspenders Weekend in Galeton Report from John Zimmer: Angela Jackson and John Zimmer staffed the STS table at the event. They gave out forestry maps and sold STS maps and Ben Cramer guides. John estimates that between 100-150 people stopped by the STC table.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Wanda Shirk gave history on STC, which included, the clubs acquisition of maintenance tools and tool trailer, additions of cross trails, website creation, and the building of trail shelters.
- President Wanda Shirk also shared what happened at mile 19.75 where Hurricane Debbie washed out a log bridge. The bridge spanned 40 feet across Cross Fork Creek. It is proposed to use six 15’ steel supports (weighing 1500 pounds) with connector plates to construct the bridge. The steel supports are quoted at $2550. Additional funds will be needed for materials to construct the tread way and handrails. We have a $500 grant specifically for bridge construction from KTA. We also can cash in a CD to cover the cost.
    - Members discussed whether a replacement is necessary or not, what type of bridge would be best (steel beams, log, cable) or creating a water route.

- John Zimmer listed some cons to the steel bridge, but feels we can trust the bridge committee to make a decision on the best method of bridging the creek.
- Rick Nelson shared the steel beams are only as strong as the anchor points and that anchor points must be sturdy for the bridge to last. This brought up questions of how they would be constructed and if it is feasible.
- Curt Weinhold suggested that we ask DCNR for help with engineering the bridge.
- Vice President Janet Smith shared an idea that Dave Hajzus shared in the past— he suggested a bridge that opens like a gate in high water but that can easily be repaired after the storm.
- Jayne Fitzgerald made a motion to authorize the Bridge Committee to use funds from both the KTA Grant and the Certificate of Deposit (CD) to move forward with planning infrastructure improvements. John Zimmer seconded the motion. The motion included cashing out the CD and not renewing it.
- Discussion continued. Members requested to know who is on the bridge committee. The bridge committee is made up of Joe Allis and Mark Kelly, Doug Wetherbee, and Ron Heath.
- If the cost of the bridge is over $5000.00, President Wanda Shirk will pay the rest of the bill.
- John Zimmer suggested that bridge plans are presented at a future meeting by the bridge committee.
- Members voted on the motion to authorize the Bridge Committee to use funds from both the KTA Grant and the Certificate of Deposit (CD) to develop and implement an infrastructure improvement plan. The motion carried with two votes opposed.

- Vice President Janet Smith asked members to let her know if they plan to attend the camporee.

- Vice President Janet Smith shared Mosquito Dunks product as an environmentally friendly remedy for the emergency buckets of water (for fires) at shelters that are becoming habitats for mosquito eggs/larvae. Mosquito Dunks can be found at the Coudersport hardware store.
- Joe Allis has requested that sawyers cut a wide path through the fallen logs on trail so that hikers can easily get through. The cut should be as wide as the trail.
- Penny Weinhold shared her thoughts on preparing for the Winter Frolic dinner which will take place at the Susquehannock Lodge on the March 13, 2027. She proposed asking Chuck and Sue Dillon to present a program about their trip to Patagonia.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.

The next meeting will take place during the Camporee at Ole Bull State Park at 2:00pm on August 8th, 2026.

***Meeting minutes taken and submitted by Lori Szymanik***