

Fall Meeting
October 18, 2014
Caputo Center in Ossining, NY
Business Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of June 1, 2014 Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Member Club Approvals
 - a. Greenburgh Nature Center
 - b. Outdoor Promise
 - c. Trail WhippAss
5. Board of Directors/Delegate-At-Large Election
6. Executive Director Report
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

MINUTES OF A DELEGATES' MEETING
of the
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

June 1, 2014

1. Gaylord Holmes, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:47 p.m. at Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J.

2. Minutes. The minutes of the February 8, 2014 Delegates' meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report. In absence of Rick Levine, Treasurer, Ed Goodell presented the following report on his behalf:

At the start of May, the construction cost of the Darlington Schoolhouse was below targeted levels due to first quarter weather delays. Accordingly, June and July are forecast as the biggest project construction months, with almost 30% of costs incurred during that period. The 2014 Darlington Schoolhouse funds-versus-costs gap decreased from January's \$400,000 to April's \$270,000 based on new donations; additional donations over the next eight months will materially reduce this gap if not cover it completely. Assuming 2014 costs remain under the completion estimate and the hard pledges are collected as promised, the Darlington Schoolhouse project is in a healthy position.

Since a portion of the hard pledges and grants will not be received in 2014, it is anticipated that the Trail Conference will lend the Darlington Schoolhouse project funds from its investment portfolio; as post-2014 funds are received, the project will reimburse our portfolio until it is made whole.

With regard to Trail Conference operations, he reported that, with both income and expenses bettering their budget targets as of April 30, our actual operating loss of \$186,000 is \$45,000 lower than our projected loss. Income has benefitted from an unbudgeted Board Challenge matching grant, Dodge Foundation funds and contract income from the PRISM and Sterling Forest projects. Actual expenses are \$36,000 less than projected in the budget. It is anticipated that after donors complete paying off their Darlington Schoolhouse pledges, future donations will revert to non-Darlington Schoolhouse contributions, which will return the Conference's operations to profitability. This is a fairly normal progression following capital campaigns.

In response to a question, Ed Goodell stated that the "thermometer" in front of the Darlington Schoolhouse, which shows that donations have reached the level of \$2.2 million, needs to be updated, since we have raised over \$2.5 million towards the

Schoolhouse project at this point. He also stated that, this past Friday, he had a conversation with a major donor who will support the geothermal system being installed in the Schoolhouse and had made a “soft pledge,” and that he expects this donor to make a substantial contribution in the near future that will cover the entire cost of the geothermal system.

5. Report of Executive Director. Ed Goodell reported on the following items:

a. LG Electronics. He reported that the Trail Conference has been involved in the fight to limit the height of the proposed LG Electronics building in Englewood Cliffs, N.J. He noted that the creation of the Palisades Interstate Park was fundamental to the entire conservation movement, and he stated that if nothing can stop a large international corporation from building a large structure adjacent to this park, then the same kind of building could be built elsewhere.

Ed Goodell then asked Charlotte Fahn to speak on recent developments. Charlotte Fahn thanked everyone who has been involved in the effort to protest the height of the proposed LG Electronics building. She urged people to attend three events scheduled for this week. The first will take place Tuesday morning in downtown White Plains, where a committee of Board of Legislators of Westchester County will consider taking a position on the proposed LG building. The second will be in Trenton on Thursday morning, where the New Jersey Senate Environment Committee will consider legislation to bar all buildings over 35 feet high near the Palisades, and the third event will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Friday morning at the Meadowlands Hilton, where we will be holding a protest at a breakfast where the unions are honoring LG Electronics. She also introduced Mark Fromm, who is coordinating efforts to get signatures on a petition to oppose the height of the proposed LG Electronics building.

b. Proposed Casinos in New York. He explained that 22 locations have been proposed as sites for casinos in New York State, and that it is likely that four or five sites will be selected as actual locations for casinos. He pointed out that two of these sites lie in an area between Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks, with one site being the Renaissance Fair area adjacent to Sterling Forest State Park, and the other site being near the Harriman train station on Route 17. Ed Goodell stated that both of these sites are objectionable to the Trail Conference and that we are working on opposing them. He also noted that, after the sites are selected, there will be a SEQRA process, during which it will be possible to object to the sites chosen.

c. Trail Crew and PRISM Projects. He reported that a student trail crew is being developed at Ramapo College. He also noted that work is progressing on the Bear Mountain Trails Project. Finally, he announced that the Trail Conference has been selected to coordinate New York State’s program for invasive species in the Hudson Valley, known as PRISM, and has developed a strategic plan for this program. He stated that we are now in the first stage of subcontracting the work.

d. Harriman Access Committee. He stated that, in light of the closure of Route 106 through Harriman State Park this winter, the Trail Conference established a Harriman Access Committee, with Bob Fuller as Chair. Bob Fuller explained that the committee solicited input over several months and is currently working closely with the Park, which is taking our concerns very seriously. He pointed out that the Park does not have the resources to plow additional roads, but that it is trying to arrange for the Town of Tuxedo to plow Route 106 next winter. Bob Fuller also noted that the Park paved the Elk Pen parking area last fall, increased the size of parking lot at Lake Sebago, and improved and regraded the parking areas on the western section of Route 106 (in Orange County) for the White Bar, Ramapo-Dunderberg and Victory Trails. He stated that the Park is hoping to improve the parking area on the 1777W Trail off Seven Lakes Drive and that the Park and the committee are looking at creating small new parking areas near trailheads wherever possible, although they are constrained by sight-line distance requirements which preclude many potential parking areas from being established.

e. Opening of Romer Mountain Trail in the Catskills. He noted that the nine-mile-long Romer Mountain Trail in the Catskills, built by a team of volunteers and trail crews, will officially open on National Trails Day, next Saturday. Bob Fuller commented that this is a beautiful stretch of trail which should be very well used.

7. New Member Club. Gaylord Holmes reported that the Westchester Land Trust has applied for membership in the Trail Conference. Gaylord Holmes described the purpose of this organization and noted that he has volunteered with them for a number of years. Arthur Gardineer questioned whether the Trail Conference could work more closely with them in maintaining their trails. It was then moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the application of the Westchester Land Trust for Trail Conference membership be approved.

8. New Business. Richard Gardner and Clyde Marks, representing New York Ramblers, noted that their club has been in existence at least since 1923. They explained that the Union County Hiking Club is changing its name to the Tri-State Ramblers and stated that they believe that this new name is likely to cause confusion among hikers because of the use of the word "Ramblers" as part of their name. They proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the delegates present at the 2014 Members and Friends Summer Meeting of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference recognize that similar sounding club names can cause confusion and bad feeling in our hiking community;

WHEREAS, the Internet and social media allow would-be hikers to inquire of hiking clubs about their upcoming hikes with no knowledge of the club involved;

RESOLVED, that in the event that a member club is considering changing its name it should strive not to choose a name that could be confused with the name of any other member club or the shortened name by which another member club is known; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to avoid confusion, such club should, at a minimum, first search the list of member clubs published on the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's website.

Robert Lehmann seconded the motion. Jill Hamell questioned what the motion would accomplish. Bob Fuller stated that he has been a member of the New York Ramblers for a very long time but does not believe that the use of the word "Ramblers" by another club would necessarily cause confusion. Robert Lehmann stated that he does not believe that the Trail Conference should dictate the names of member clubs.

A vote was taken on the motion, which was defeated, with one vote in favor and all other delegates opposed.

9. Gaylord Holmes urged delegates to support deer culling to preserve the health of our forests.

10. Ed Goodell introduced a representative of TD Bank, who spoke about their affinity program with the Trail Conference.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Chazin
Secretary

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Delegates:

Susan Barbuto	- Delegate-at-Large
Hanna Benesch	- Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club
Susan Bickford-Martin	- AMC - Delaware Valley Chapter
Daniel D. Chazin	- Board Secretary
Walt Daniels	- Board Member
Jack Driller	- Delegate-at-Large
Charlotte Fahn	- Board Member
Bob Fuller	- Delegate-at-Large
Jill Hamell	- Delegate-at-Large
Gary Haugland	- Chair, Trails Council
Pete Heckler	- Delegate-at-Large
Gaylord Holmes	- Board Vice-Chair
Dick Katzive	- Board Member
Tom Kennedy	- Hike for Mental Health
Robert Lehmann	- Delegate-at-Large
Barry Leibowitz	- ADK - Mohican Chapter
John Mack	- West Hudson South Trails Chair
Paul Makus	- Delegate-at-Large
George O'Lear	- Westchester Trails Association
Donald Pachner	- Sierra Club, Lower Hudson Group
Richard Roberts	- Catskill Mountain Club
Mellonie Sanborn	- Delegate-at-Large
Douglas Sohn	- Delegate-at-Large
Ed Walsh	- Long Path North Hiking Club
Patsy Wooters	- Board Member

TREASURER'S REPORT NYNJTC DELEGATES MEETING (10/18/2014)

Darlington School House (DSH)

Hard Pledge collections will continue throughout 2015 and into 2016. Construction costs will extend beyond occupancy (i.e., landscaping and exterior aspects). *Final total construction cost projections remain covered by pledged donations and grant incomes.*

To date, the DSH project has not drawn from a \$400,000 internal bridge loan (from our investment portfolio) which was set up to cover the lag between collection of pledged funds/grants and current construction expenses. Assuming budgeted costs and incomes do not change negatively, the Darlington School House project remains on target.

Overall Operations

Although we have an operating loss as of the beginning of September (which was budget-anticipated), the actual \$284,000 loss compares exceptionally well against both our current budget and the previous year's loss at this time. Both Operational and Darlington School House project results are within budget parameters; there are no materially underperforming categories.

We anticipate returning to operational profitability within the next few years as donors finish their Darlington School House pledges and revert to non-restricted contributions – as is usually the case when a sizeable Capital Campaign winds down.

Our Investment Portfolio remains responsibly managed and our savings assist in the transfer process from Capital effort to Operational benefits.

Our net worth (assets less liabilities) total \$5,978,000. The Investment Portfolio is at \$1,965,000. *We are a financially healthy organization.*

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Levine, Treasurer

**Member Organizations for Approval
October 18, 2014**

Outdoor Promise

Youth Member Organization

PO Box 670311

Flushing, NY 11367

Contact: Ronald Zorrilla

646-399-3069

<http://www.outdoorpromise.org>

Outdoor Promise helps disadvantaged NYC youth discover the wonders and joys of learning by doing through hands on projects based outdoors, educational programs. The organization's goals are to provide youth with outdoor learning experiences that improve team work and collaboration, instill awareness and love for the natural world, spark a lifelong commitment to stewardship of natural treasures and learn STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) through discovery and direct experiences with the outdoors.

Trail WhippAss

Contributing Member Organization

32 East 76th Street, Apt 701

New York, NY 10021

Contact: Dylan Armajani

347-244-0869

www.trailwhippass.com

Trail WhippAss is a New York/New Jersey area based trail running club with approximately 90 members. They encourage their members to give back by volunteering on the trails, and they recognize the Trail Conference on their website. Recently, their members have volunteered with the Palisades crew, Bear Mountain crew, and the South Mountain Reservation crew. John Leigh is working with this club to assign a trail to maintain.

Greenburgh Nature Center

Contributing Member Organization

99 Dromore Road

Scarsdale, NY 10583

Contact: Anne Jaffe Holmes

914-723-2470

www.greenburghnaturecenter.org

The Greenburgh Nature Center (GNC) is a 33-acre nature preserve with trails, a pond and gardens. More than 70,000 visitors come to the GNC each year. The property is a significant wildlife habitat refuge, both for indigenous species and for the hundreds of species of migratory birds that use it as a resting place on their spring and fall travels. The property includes 30 acres of woodland, two significant wetland sites, and a wildflower meadow, which is used as a nesting area for Eastern box turtles. 1.25 miles of hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk and are free to the general public.

Nominees for Board of Directors, Delegates at Large 2014

The Nominations Committee of the Trail Conference presents the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms and Delegates at large for one-year terms. These nominations will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held at a day and place to be announced.

Walter E. Daniels Mohegan Lake, NY

Following his 30-year career at IBM, Walt has volunteered over 2,000 hours annually for the last 13 years for the Trail Conference as its webmaster, trail maintainer, trail supervisor, trail assessment leader, workshop leader, steering committee member for the 2007 Appalachian Trail Conference, publications committee member and co-author of *Walkable Westchester*, a guide to hiking trails in Westchester County, published earlier this year in its second edition. Walt was elected to the board of directors in 2011. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Trail Conference.

Andy Garrison Wurtsboro, NY

Andy is a long-term, active volunteer with the Trail Conference, with broad experience in maintaining, building, and preserving trails and open space, often working with partner organizations. He currently serves on the Trail Conference Conservation Committee, is co-chair of the Long Path Committee, and is Shawangunk Ridge Trail Supervisor and a maintainer. Andy led the clean-up of the Trail Conference property in the Shawangunks known as LaFarge, and just finished leading the effort to build the new 8+ mile Long Path route over three mountains in the Catskill Park.

Richard R. Levine Upper Saddle River, NJ

Rick is the current Treasurer of the Trail Conference and chair of the Finance Committee. He is the Managing Director of ITP Associates, a commercial real estate developer and manager of transportation facilities, primarily at Newark Airport. He was the executive director of the "Love Newark Committee," a public-private environmental initiative to clean up and promote Newark, a hike leader for the Adirondack Mountain Club's Outdoor for Kids program, and an event leader for the Fashion Institute of Technology. Rick was first elected to the Trail Conference board in 2011.

John Magerlein Yorktown Heights, NY

John has been a Trail Conference volunteer for nearly 30 years. Since 1992 he and his wife Karen have been supervisors for the trails in Fahnestock State Park. John has led the construction of new trails and bridges in the park, worked closely with park managers, and frequently taught Trail Maintenance. He is a certified chain sawyer. As registrar for the 2007 Appalachian Trail Conservancy biennial conference, he set up the first on-line registration system for that conference. John has served on the board of directors of his church congregation and as its president. John works at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, where he has held a variety of technical and managerial positions. He anticipates retiring from IBM in 2015.

Dr. Beth Ravit Closter, NJ

Beth spent three decades as a corporate executive before entering graduate school and earning her Masters (2001) and Ph.D. (2004) degrees in Environmental Science from Rutgers University. She joined the Rutgers faculty in 2005 and is currently an Instructor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, School of Environmental & Biological Sciences (SEBS), New Brunswick, NJ, where she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Environmental Science and Microbial Ecology. She serves on the boards of Hackensack Riverkeeper (treasurer) and the Closter Nature Center, among others. In her business life Beth developed significant experience positioning, developing, and expanding new and restructured retail concepts as President & Chief Executive Officer of Next USA, and prior to that, as President of Speedo Authentic Fitness Retail Division.

Edward Saiff**Mahwah, NJ**

Eddie is a professor of biology at Ramapo College, and clinical professor of pathophysiology and neurosciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He has served on and chaired the Mahwah Environmental Commission, and the Mahwah Board of Education. He is a dedicated outdoors man and a key liaison between Ramapo College and the Trail Conference. Eddie serves on the Headquarters Construction Committee of the Trail Conference. He has served on the board of directors since 2008.

Christine DeBoer**New Paltz, NY**

To complete a vacated unexpired term.

Christine is executive director of the Walkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT), since 2009. Prior to that, she was a Trail Conference staff member, serving as East Hudson Regional Representative from 2008-2009. Christine's 15 years of experience working in conservation includes a focus on environmental education and extensive experience training and managing staff and volunteers, and collaborating with multiple organizations on projects. For WVLT, she oversees fundraising and budgets on major campaigns.

Nominations of Delegates

Therese Allen, Susan Barbuto, Norman Blumenstein, Allyn Dodd, Jack Driller, Harvey Fishman, Bob Fuller, Jill Hamell, Pete Heckler, Rob Lehman, Mark Liss, Alice Luddington-Cantor, Paul Makus, Steven Marano, Margo Moss, Karen Rose, Ruth Rosenthal, Mellonie Sanborn, Frank Schoof, Karl Soehnlein, Douglas Sohn, Nancy Tollefson, Daniel Van Engel, Robert Ward