



KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Spring, 2018 Combined Meeting of the Board of Directors and Council



Saturday, April 14, 2018, 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Jim Thorpe, PA

**** Executive Session – 3:30 PM (Board Members only)**

Directors attending: Ernie Werstler, Bob Merrill, Katie Barker, Rob Altenburg, Donna Thompson, Jack Hauler, Dave Gantz

Also attending: Joe Neville and Brynn Furnace

President Werstler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

I. Action Item: Staff Health Insurance

- a. Joe explained that historically KTA has provided some form of health coverage to employees.
- b. Discussion ensued on providing health insurance coverage for the current Program Administrator.
 - i. Coverage is not needed until October and can be added as an item to next year's budget.

Is there a motion to provide insurance coverage to the Program Administrator as of October 2018?
Rob Altenburg motions to allow Joe to decide the best course of action. Bob Merrill seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

Motion to adjourn? Bob Merrill motions, Donna Thompson seconds. All in favor. None opposed.
Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

In addition to the above, attendance at the combined Board and Council meeting included: Jim Hooper, Allen Britton, Kathy Davis, Barbara van Horn, Ed Lawrence, Vicki Porto, Ken Rush, Sharon Southall, Peter Jarrett, Jim Catozzi, Joan Moyer, Paul Shaw, Linda Enders Roxberry, Carl Davis, John Stein, Krista Cessna, Joyce Appel, Catherine Shade, Jenn Ulmer, Dave Adams, Nancy Decker, Gary Decker, Jane Huston

President Werstler called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Opening Remarks (Ernie Werstler - President)

- a. The board met in executive session prior to this meeting and approved providing health insurance coverage to the Program Administrator effective October of this year.

II. General Membership/ Public Comments

- a. Discussion of the lapse in the KTA MeetUp account.
 - i. Paul Shaw voiced concerns over the lapse in the KTA MeetUp account.
 - ii. Joe responded that the account was discontinued after the previous administrator stepped down because the cost was not being returned in memberships.
 - iii. Dave Gantz added that Facebook events are very popular with younger folks and are free to use through the KTA Facebook Page.
 - iv. Allen Britton's personal experience with both MeetUp and Facebook is that you can get huge turnouts with both platforms, but the participants don't get further involved in the club.

- v. Ed Lawrence added that he has consulted with Pete Fleszar who deals with the social media for MSTA. Pete wants to research MeetUp. If his research shows a positive response, then the account could be used for Trail Care and the cost could possibly come out of the Trail Care Budget.
- vi. Ernie Werstler said if we decide to reopen the account, then we should use it for all KTA events including Trail Care. We will decide after Pete has completed his research. Someone would need to step forward to pay for and administer the site. We could advertise this opportunity in the newsletter.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the 1/6/2018 KTA Board Meeting (Board vote)

Motion to approve the minutes from January? Donna Thompson motions, Katie Barker seconds. Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor of approving? All aye. Nays? None. Minutes approved.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the 10/14/2017 KTA Council Meeting (Council vote)

Motion to approve the minutes from October? Ed Lawrence motions, Joyce Appel seconds. Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor of approving? All aye. Nays? None. Minutes approved.

V. Treasurer's Report (Rob Altenburg – Council and Board vote) – see attachment

- a. Discussion ensued in regards to the report.

Motion to accept the report subject to audit? Katie Barker motions, Donna Thompson seconds. All in favor? All aye. Nays? None. Report accepted subject to audit.

VI. Executive Director's Report (Joseph Neville) – see attachment

- a. It was mentioned that the Trail Challenge could be advertised on the PA Trail Races page on Facebook.
- b. Ernie Werstler asked how many people would like to come back to Jim Thorpe and about 75% raised their hand.
- c. Dave Gantz mentioned that the International Mountain Biking Association is not doing well.

VII. Program Administrator's Report (Brynn Furnace) – see attachment

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Trail Care Committee (Ed Lawrence)

- a. Last weekend, was the first Trail Care of the season. They had an inch of snow and 28 degrees. It was nice to work in the cooler weather. They worked on White Mountain Trail near the Camp Wesley Forest where the last fall weekend was held.
- b. Ed also discussed changes in the Chuck Keiper/Donut Hole Trail Care which used to be combined, but are now separate events.
- c. There is a Code Orange event at Hickory Run State Park next month.

B. Finance Committee (Rob Altenburg) – nothing report

C. Executive Committee (Ernie Werstler) – nothing to report

D. Nominations Committee (Wanda Shirk) – nothing to report

E. Patch Committee (Jack Hauler)

- a. Golden Eagle patch is almost ready to be sent out for pricing.
- b. Possibility of having a patch for 100 mile challenge

F. Publications Committee (Wayne Gross) – nothing to report

IX. Action Items

- A. Set date for next Board meeting (Ernie Werstler)
 - a. Saturday, July 28th at Prowl the Sproul.
- B. Board meeting for discussion of possible five and ten year goals
 - a. Interest in this? Saturday in June?
 - i. Date set for June 30th at the KTA office.

X. Other Business

- A. ATV Connector Feasibility Study (Bob Merrill)
 - a. Explained the issue and how the study shows a missing link. Several people have written letters to DCNR encouraging them not to create this connector trail.

XI. Affiliates & Agency Partner Reports

- A. PA Game Commission (Mike Beahm) – not present
- B. Appalachian Trail Conservancy (Karen Lutz) – not present
- C. Sierra Club (Jeff Schmidt) – not present
- D. Pennsylvania Sunday Hunting Working Group (Kathy Davis)
 - a. Kathy Davis explained that hunter numbers are declining. They want to get kids involved in the natural world. They support a license fee increase, but do not support user fees. Changes in hunter education have resulted in a decrease in hunting related fatalities. They want to remove the prohibition so people can choose if they will allow hunting on their land on Sunday, this includes state agencies like the Game Commission and DCNR.
 - i. Several members expressed opinions in regards to the argument.
- E. Club Representatives (All)
 - a. Allen Britton – Batona Hiking Club completed 900 hours of trail care on the AT, 10 on Horse-Shoe Trail, and a few on a section of the Batona Trail in NJ. Their membership is at 130.
 - b. Joan Moyer – Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club is changing privies from composting to moldering. See their website for information on work trips. They just placed 150 acres and a few small parcels under easement. They have new brochures for the arboretum.
 - c. Jim Hooper – Mason Dixon Trail System made two updates to maps for relocations.
 - d. Krista Cessna – SATC resurfaced Peters Mountain parking lot, de-graffitied rocks on the AT, dealt with mountain bikers on the Darlington Trail, requested a relocation of Yellow Springs Trail off of the AT behind Indiantown Gap, will be hosting annual garlic mustard pulls, will finish their AT across the state hike series in July, are holding two joint hikes with BMECC, and will help with the Trail Challenge this year.
 - e. Ed Lawrence – MST updates that the Woolrich Corporation has been sold and it is unclear if the land goes with the business. The MST is on Woolrich land. They are unsure what will happen at this time.
 - f. Joyce Appel – Butler Outdoor Club has always sponsored an Outdoor Extravaganza but this year they will have a group campout at Black Moshannon State Park. They will still host the Muddy 5k race on June 10th.
- F. KTA AT Section Report (Jim Foster) – see attachment
- G. PA Parks and Forests Foundation (Dave Gantz)
 - a. Conception of Friends of Rothrock State Forest
 - i. There is an idea to build 60 miles of brand new shared use trails.

H. North Country Trail Association (Joyce Appel) – see attachment

- XII. **Next Meetings: Board Meeting:** Saturday, July 28, 2018, Renovo, PA
Board and Council Meetings: Saturday, October 13, 2018, Williamsport, PA

Motion to adjourn? Bob Merrill motions. Donna Thompson seconds. All in favor? All ayes.
Opposed? None. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.