

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the New Haven Hiking Club 2009 November 7

The meeting was called to order by President James Fullmer at 7:11 pm. Approximately 86 members were present.

Announcements and Reports:

The Cheshire Grange staff was thanked for providing a delicious and nutritious meal.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Acting for the secretary, Lisa Rao read the minutes of last year's annual meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The President gave his report, which included the minutes of the October 19th meeting of the Executive Committee. A complete copy is attached. A synopsis follows. In August a club member suffered a serious fall on an officially scheduled hike on the Metacomet Trail on Short Mountain. As of the time of the meeting her current condition was not known. The President also announced that a long term member and most active hike leader, John Palermo died last January; and a moment of respectful silence took place. The President announced that the Executive Committee plans to post the following on the NHHC website: sign-up and waiver form, club history, and the constitution and by-laws.

The following donations were suggested by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership: Connecticut Forest and Park Association \$400, Sleeping Giant Park Association \$250, Farmington Canal Rails to trails \$100, and Guilford Land Trust \$100.

The President announced the following committee appointments: Web - Glenn Fehrs, History - Sandra Lee, Trails - John Rek, Membership - Patrick DeMichele, Gordon Daniel, Glen Fehrs, Recorder - Victoria Smith, and Publicity - Siri Belgum. The President requested comments from the membership. None were received.

The Treasurer, Patrick Demichele, gave his report and it was accepted unanimously by the membership without changes. A complete copy (updated to November 7th to include a check to Cheshire Grange for the Annual Dinner) is attached.

The Recorder's report: Acting for the Recorder the report was read by Gordon Daniell. A complete copy is attached. A total of 233 events were led during the last 12 month period and there were 295 participants in these events. A participant - as defined by the insurance company - is a person who has participated in at least one event; the number of participations beyond one is irrelevant. There were 20 event leaders.

The Trails Committee Report: The following club - maintained trails had maintenance in the past 12 months (trail stewards are also listed): Frissel (James Fullmer), Metacomet (John Rek), Pattaconk (Victoria Smith), and Quinnipiac (Patrick DeMichele & Gordon Daniell).

The Nominating Committee Report was read by chair Gayle Walter. The following were nominated: President - James Fullmer, VicePresident - Gordon Daniell, Secretary - Lisa Rao, and Treasurer - Patrick Demichele. Nominations were solicited from the floor and none were received. The nominees were voted into office unanimously.

The President thanked all executive committee members and event leaders, past and present, without whom the 233 events would not have taken place.

Old Business: None.

New Business: By-laws amendments:

The executive committee decided to submit amendments to the NHHC by-laws. These are listed below. The by-laws state that amendments cannot be voted on until the next annual meeting.

In IV 1 the 3rd sentence shall read:

“There shall also be chairs of these permanent committees: Membership, Trails, Publicity, Club History, Recording, and World Wide Web.”

This adds “Recording” and “World Wide Web” to the list of permanent committees.

In IV 7 section e shall be replaced by:

“e. The Membership Chairperson shall maintain the list of members and their contact information, and shall make mailing labels as needed.”

In IV 7 the following sections shall be added:

“i. The Recording Chair (Recorder) shall send to event leaders the event sign-up/waiver forms, receive the completed forms from the leaders, and archive the forms. Yearly the forms shall be given to the historian for long-term archive. Additionally, the Recorder may publish yearly the number of miles hiked by the leading hikers.”

“j. The World Wide Web Chair (Webmaster) shall maintain the club website, email all events to members, and post on the website the club’s events which are designated OK to publish by the event leader.”

Motivation: this separates tasks which together would be too much work for one volunteer. (Committees have nearly always been committees of one). This also puts together all NHHC documents in the historical archive. Insurance requires that the waiver forms be used and must be available upon demand (Demand is more likely to occur if claims are made, and if insurance is to be renewed).

Discussion on the suggested amendments was solicited by the President. None took place. The President announced that, appearing as old business, the amendments can be discussed at the next annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm. There followed a slide presentation by Larry Hoyt on his travels to the US. Pacific Northwest. Beautiful photos and unique humor ensued. Many legs were pulled.

Written and submitted by: James Fullmer, President, NHHC, Inc.