

**Adirondack Forty-Sixers, Inc. (46ers)
Spring 2019 Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes
High Peaks Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Placid NY
2019 May 26**

In attendance:

- Siobhán Carney-Nesbitt, President/Office of the Historian
- Laurie Rankin, Vice President, Trailhead Stewards Co-Chair
- Brian Hoody, Past President
- Julia Goren, Director
- Leesa Arthur, Membership Chair
- Bill Brizzell, Director
- Chris Sobik, Director
- Doug Varney, Director
- Sam Eddy, Lead Trailmaster
- Mark Simpson, Correspondent Program Chair
- Tom Fine, Trailmaster
- Joe Bogardus, Trailmaster
- Paula Selmer, Merchandise Chair,
- Steve Shumway, Director
- Bill Lundy, Recording Secretary/Co-Chair, Outdoor Skills Workshop
- Lee Nesbitt, Office of the Historian
- Phil Corell, Treasurer
- Don McMullen, Co-Chair, Outdoor Skills Workshop
- Dan Kane, Director
- Bob Rock, incoming Director
- Mary Lamb, incoming Director
- Fran Shumway, Trailhead Stewards Co-Chair
- Steve Shumway, Director
- Chuck Schwerein. *PEEKS* Editor
- Joe Ryan, Webmaster

Guests:

- Paul de Lucia, Doug Arnold, representing Lean-to Rescue (L2R)
- Kayla White - representing ADK trails
- Zoe Smith - Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI)

Agenda ([link](#))

Summary of e-mail votes since last meeting:

- A. Minutes of the Winter Executive Meeting

- a. 2018-04-25 - "Moved to approve the March 30, 2019 Winter Meeting minutes.
Brian Hoody
 - b. Second - Steve Shumway
 - c. Aye - Julia G, Doug V, Dan K, Bill B, Chris S, Laurie R, Siobhan
 - d. **Carried** 2019 April 29
1. **Call to Order** - President, Siobhán Carney-Nesbitt - 11:06
 - 1.1. Welcome to new directors, Bob Rock and Mary Lamb
 2. **Historian's Office** - Lee Nesbitt
 - 2.1. The class of 2018 stands at 691 new members; approximately 175 attending tonight's fete.
 3. **Treasurer's Report** - Phil Corell
 - 3.1. Phil handed out hard copies of the various reports he has made and obtained from TD Bank Following are key points:
 - 3.2. On hand, we have approximately \$238,000
 - 3.3. Club operations budget is based on dues received; whereas, donations fund our contributions (typically over \$60,000 per annum).
 - 3.4. During 2018 FY, merchandise expenses rose largely due to re-stocking; income from sales now rising because of our having the needed inventory.
 - 3.5. Lean-to Rescue (L2R): we have \$2567 we are holding for them as their banker; we also hold \$4220 donations for them.
 - 3.6. The Trust fund administered by L John Van Norden has \$756 that will be sent to him, to close this account and our involvement.
 - 3.7. We are still awaiting decisions on approximately \$29,000 for donations to be discussed and approved.
 4. **Guest Presentation #1 - Lean-to Rescue (L2R)** (Paul de Lucia, Doug Arnold)
 - 4.1. Some background shared with us: Plenty of case law that if a group is sued, individuals who have signed a VSA are effectively employees of the State and would not be liable. That said, there are two pending lawsuits emanating from incidents in the Finger Lakes Region that seem to indicate L2R's (and the 46ers') liability might lie broader than previously thought. Paul shared this and expressed concern for both L2R and our sakes.
 - 4.2. L2R has not yet renewed its contract until the laws get changed (pending). Do they need to wait for laws to be changed? If they renew their VSA then, we discussed, then they could they become a chartered organization.
 - 4.3. L2R sees itself in a holding pattern with regards to continuing work. It is entertaining options, incorporation included, but are awaiting meetings with lawyers. That said, some individuals may carry on as individual workers, but things are still "up in the air".

5. **Membership** - Leesa Arthur
 - 5.1. 7028 active 46ers (i.e., paid up dues to at least 2017); 408 aspiring
 - 5.2. 3399 people have paid through 2019, 1071 paid through 2018
 - 5.3. 149 life members
 - 5.4. Typically, we retain 50% of those who are members for their first three (3) years
 - 5.5. 39 of the 2018 finishers have not yet paid their finishing fees
 - 5.6. An email blast is intended to jog the memories of those (approx 149) whose memberships have lapsed.
 - 5.7. Leesa expressed a desire that we develop a proactive effort to help increase our retention rate during the first three years: she is currently working on a process for this. Should we consider a communications effort to all inactive members to re-invite them back? (asked rhetorically)
 - 5.8. As a side note, Leesa also noted that the membership role encompasses both the expected and necessary membership-related logistics/admin, but also responding to “random questions”, e.g. about clothing, trail conditions (to the tune of about 25 per week). [Some informal side comments came from the floor as to whether these kinds of questions could/should be routed to someone else.]

6. **Merchandise** - Paula Selmer
 - 6.1. Our current paper-based ordering system is both cumbersome and time-consuming: Paule expressed concern that it can inhibit orders. [It is expected that the new website -- see below -- will address this.]
 - 6.2. Our present arrangement with Pennysaver “is OK”. They charge us only 59\$/month for storage.

7. **Correspondent Program** - Mark Simpson
 - 7.1. This is running well, albeit slowly.
 - 7.2. As of April 2019, over 200 logins with approximately 300 sessions. There are 95 correspondents in total, with 125 aspirants in the program.
 - 7.3. Mark requested that Conservation Service Hours (CSH) be awarded to correspondents: 8h per finisher for that correspondent. [Some supportive comments from the floor, but nothing decisive]

8. **Peeks Magazine** - Chuck Schwerein
 - 8.1. Compliments from the assembled multitude were expressed to Chuck for another outstanding issue (i.e., the recent issue).
 - 8.2. Chuck tossed out, for discussion only, should we allocate the approx. \$27,000 currently used to print *Peeks* over to trail work? The following points were expressed from the floor, in the order heard:
 - 8.3. The membership appreciates the high quality
 - 8.4. The quality reminds people we’re a serious group
 - 8.5. People like the roster and images
 - 8.6. The content shows we do more than just climb

- 8.7. In summary, no sense that we want to consign the paper copy to the trash heap, that the money is well spent.
 - 8.8. The concept of having a PDF edition available to paid-up members was raised - the discussion centered around how we might make options available (e.g., default is to receive by mail, with option to receive PDF instead)
 - 8.9. Chuck has been corresponding with Laura Waterman who is going to work with Chuck on an article for a future edition.
 - 8.10. Chuck has been declining most stories about other places around the globe; one exception being the Antarctic traverse, whose connection to the 46ers lies with Colin O'Brady who trained for this by climbing the "High Point 50" in 21 days.
9. **Outdoor Skills Workshop** - Bill Lundy, Don McMullen
- 9.1. See attached summary report; an album of images with the full report (includes data and all candidate comments) was circulated during the course of the meeting.
 - 9.2. [Summary report](#)
 - 9.3. [Full report](#)
10. **Website (Current)** - Joe Ryan
- 10.1. There have been some minor updates to the content, completed.
 - 10.2. Please route all work orders through Joe: this process works well and helps keep our content as up to date as possible, and helps Phil pay the bills promptly.
11. **Trailmasters** - Sam Eddy *et al*
- 11.1. To date, 7 outings this year, including completion of all planned blowdown sweeps
 - 11.2. Next: Haystack-McKenzie (Ray Brook)
 - 11.3. The all-women's weekend has been moved from Putnam Pond - now using Lake Harris as its base camp. Planned activities: tree planting, and installation of new lean-to (location unspecified)..
 - 11.4. Long-range plans include Valcour Island in 2020, and request for a women's work weekend-specific t-shirt.
 - 11.5. In other news,
 - 11.6. Sam has had 5h worth of meetings over the month of May with DEC. Issues discussed include DEC's allowing power tools (including those with batteries), but still only during the "chainsaw window"; DEC's providing adequate notice regarding schedule changes and changing venues and projects; and further discussion about power tools in wilderness areas (i.e., not allowing them in wilderness areas outside the chainsaw window: it is felt this impeded progress on some projects); as well as micromanagement by DEC (i.e., Sam wants some flexibility from DEC so that his crews can address unexpected trail issues found only when a work party actually goes into the field).

- 11.7. There was spirited discussion around the room about power tool usage, and its presence in wilderness-designated areas. No resolutions made.
12. **CSA hours** - Tom Fine
[details provided by email after the meeting]
 - 12.1. Total Hours during the 2018 season: 4526, up from 4395 in 2017.
 - 12.2. Trail Crew put in 2910 hours, including 194 hours from Herd Path Maintainers. TSP put in 1362 hours. OSW put in 254 hours.
 - 12.3. A total of 140 individuals logged volunteer service hours in 2018, down from 143 in 2017.
 - 12.4. The most active volunteer in 2018 was Sam Eddy, with 192 hours. Mark Simpson was second with 136 hours. Tom Fine and Brian Sikora were 3rd with 128 hours. Joe Ryan was fourth with 124 hours.
13. **Guest Presentation #2** - Zoe Smith
 - 13.1. See attached proposal ([link](#))
 - 13.2. Since the March meeting, the proposal has changed. Key points:
 - 13.3. They will be hiring two (2) persons regardless of 46er funding
 - 13.4. They are looking to partner with us, for funding to hire a 3rd steward
14. **Trailhead Stewards** - Fran Shumway
 - 14.1. Season 3 is up and running' over 1000 interactions to date.
 - 14.2. 69 people trained in 2019, 33 of whom are new.
 - 14.3. Fridays and some holiday Mondays have been added [pending DEC approval as of the meeting; approval granted in early June 2019.]
 - 14.4. Effectiveness of program rated as highly positive; also, that influence will occur "down the road", not just on the day of the interaction. Less trash, and fewer dogs off leash (as reported by summit stewards).
 - 14.5. Footnote from President Siobhán : What about children (e.g., 13-year-olds) acting as stewards? Discussion following raised the following: What are DEC rules? What are the insurance implications? Will parent(s) be present?
 - 14.6. Fran noted that our current VSA precludes children; however, she will look into it.
 - 14.7. Brian will also run this by our insurers.
15. **In-Camera discussions and decisions:**
 - 15.1. Regarding Guest presentation #1 -
 - 15.1.1. Because of the many issues regarding their governance and leadership, President Siobhán will followup with L2R by writing a letter to them. The letter will focus on advising them no further action until they get a VSA. [As of today, June 14, this is pending editing and an email vote.]
 - 15.1.2. The President has written a letter to L2R dated 17 June. Read the letter [here](#).

- 15.2. Regarding guest presentation #2 -
Discussion points from the floor:
- 15.2.1. Zoe and Fran did meet to go over their shared vision and what messages could/should be shared in common. Fran will be inviting Zoe to one of our trailhead steward days; she is comfortable with having a higher level of involvement that involves Zoe's project.
 - 15.2.2. There was concern expressed about the related survey being conducted at the trailhead. Some felt this interferes with hiking enjoyment; there was some consensus that the survey-takers should keep a low profile and do their questionnaire when people return from the peak rather than as they arrive.
 - 15.2.3. Do we fund based on hopes/plans or based on experience (i.e., wait until 2020)
 - 15.2.4. Issues with respect to the Rt 73 corridor have "many moving parts" and are in a "continual state of flux"
 - 15.2.5. **Motion:** "To approve the requested funding, provided that Fran [Shumway] can identify stipulations in the training, the message, and the survey." (Contingencies: survey content, spend some training time, and report to the fall meeting 28 Sept)
 - 15.2.6. Moved: Dan K
 - 15.2.7. Second: Chris S
 - 15.2.8. Aye: 7, Nay 0, Abstain 0
 - 15.2.9. **Carried**

16. **Website (new)** - Mark Simpson *et al*

- 16.1. See attached handout ([link](#))
- 16.2. General comments to add to the handout:
- 16.3. Our current site is based on "old technology" and needs to be upgraded no matter what we do with respect to a new look and feel. Additionally, we have lost most expertise with the FileMakerPro database and need to move away from it as soon as is practicable.
- 16.4. The proposal centers around a new database hosted by Kimmel, which we will be able to access and edit ourselves (i.e., we do all our own updates).
- 16.5. Kimmel's price is competitive; furthermore, the coders and managers are all local (i.e., not farmed out to third parties, not necessarily on this continent).
- 16.6. Summary of key points about price:
- 16.7. \$4330 first year - initial setup, database preparation, workflow)
- 16.8. \$2029 second year
- 16.9. \$1490 third year - basically covers hosting
- 16.10. (compare at \$3900/year for current site hosting and maintenance)
- 16.11. Time-line from current to fully-functioning new site = 2 years, with some portions being updated this coming winter.

- 16.12. **Motion:** “To approve the modernization and upgrading of the 46er website, as per the handout and comments.”
- 16.13. Moved: Chris S
- 16.14. Second: Julia G
- 16.15. Aye: 9, Nay 0, Abstain 0
- 16.16. Carried**
17. **VSA** - Brian Hoody
- 17.1. At present we can't do much as there are too many unknowns; “it's a continuing saga.”
- 17.2. [Added by email, from Tom Fine: Our VSA III form is attached ([link](#)). Also the liability waiver that is printed at the top of all Trail Crew outings sign-in sheets ([link](#)). All of our volunteers sign this at every outing. After receiving clarification from the DEC, we are collecting VSA III's only once from our volunteer, but reminding volunteers to submit a new signed form if any of their information changes.]
18. **Grant Support Request** - Steve Shumway
- 18.1. The Town of Keene has asked us for a letter of support for its application for a “Smart Growth Grant” (no money involved from us).
- 18.2. General agreement this be done.
19. **Patents, etc** - Brian Hoody
- 19.1. “Aspiring 46er” was not approved for copyright: we may need to submit a clearer proposal, and include that it is included in an educational website.
- 19.2. That said, all other logos and marks are now protected.
- 19.3. Followup regarding the “Aspiring...” point will occur by email amongst Debbie Melita, Brian, Tom,, and Siobhan)
20. **Endowment/Trust** - President Siobhán
- 20.1. Siobhán is looking to facilitate a committee to explore the 46ers' establishing its own trust; more to follow this summer.
21. **“Hot Spot”** - Julia Goren
- 21.1. The ADK, through Seth Jones, is organizing this week of events (8-14 Aug).
- 21.2. ADK is seeking people to participate, namely volunteers at rest stops on I-87 and a trail work project (tba).
- 21.3. Interested parties contact Julia (jgorenster@gmail.com).
22. **Next meeting:** Saturday 28 September, Newcomb Central School
23. **Motion to adjourn**, 15:20

- 23.1. Moved - Mary Lamb
- 23.2. Seconded - Bob Rock
- 23.3. Carried**