

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION
November 18, 2008**

The meeting of the AVTA was held on November 18, 2008 at Joan Sank's house. It was called to order by the president, Trish Buckwalter, at 7:30 pm. Present: Trish Buckwalter, Joan Sank, Mary Murrin, Lynn Ebeling, Cynthia Ziegra, Jen Edwards, Jen Fisher, Steven Buxton, Di Hunns, Phil Jacoby.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jen E read the report and said a portion of the money will be used for operating expenses and also for scholarships. Our scholarships are now \$1,000.00, and we will be giving out two or three this year.

Steven made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Phil seconded the motion.

Trish showed a picture of the stalls that we had donated for the 4-H fair.

The stalls have signs on them, recognizing AVTA as the donor.

Membership report:

Trish has given the appropriate paperwork to Joe Orbos, on Back Road, who wants to become a new member of AVTA and is especially interested in cross country skiing. Trish will ask Tory to put an article on the website about cross country skiing, in an effort to get people interested in skiing to communicate with one another. Trish would also like to have a "hiker's corner" on the website.

Landowner Relations report:

Trishka W., our lawyer, has sent letters to Joel Moore and to Roger Morin, reminding them that they have easements on their properties and that we want to keep an open line of communication with them regarding these easements, and that AVTA is responsible for keeping the easements cleared. Trish is anticipating that Joel Moore will be erecting a deer fence around the golf course, and the letter from Trishka was designed to make sure that he keeps our trail and the easement in mind when he plans the location of the fence. He has assured her that the fence will not interfere with the trail.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hunter Pace: Di reported that the Hunter Pace was a huge success...we made more money than in any other year. People reported that they enjoyed the course. The weather was fine and the volunteers were very good. Next year Jen F. and Audrey will be running the Hunter Pace (first Sunday in Oct.), and Di is planning to ride it rather than work it.

Di reported that she had a call from Paul Updike, Master of the Spring Valley Hounds, complaining that the date of our Hunter Pace interfered with theirs, and asking her to change the date in future. However, as the first Sunday in October has been established as our date for years, we shall keep it that way.

Dispersal of funds received from the Hunter Pace: After a discussion in which the Board agreed that the support of local organizations is important and is good for public relations, Mary made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Ringoes Rescue Squad, \$1,000.00 to the Ringoes Fire Department, and the remaining \$1,369.00 to the CFWMSF. The motion was seconded by Di, and the motion was passed.

Thank you letters: Lynn will write thank-you letters to landowners who are not necessarily members of AVTA but who allowed us to use their land for the Hunter Pace, and to others who devoted a large portion of their land for use for the Hunter Pace. They are Floyd Schwab, Jack Kanach, Robert Ribbans, Jeffrey Bradstreet, Flan Lippincott, and Liz Norsworthy. Di will put a thank-you in the VIP for all of the landowners who cooperated with the running of the Hunter Pace.

Cindy and Trish will mark the trail around Jack Kanach's woods in order to clarify its route at that point.

Update on Winter Doldrums party: A deposit has been sent to the Fire House and the food has been chosen. There will be a cash bar. The Fire House wants a head count at least a week before the party, so Phil will send out post cards early in February. The post cards will announce the party and will ask for reservations with payment in advance. The information will also appear in the newsletter and on the website.

Tables will be provided for the auction. Phil will provide a sound system for music.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR'S BOARD MEETINGS is as follows: Jan. 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, August - picnic - date to be chosen later, September 15, November 17,

The Board decided it would be a good idea to try and encourage young people to become involved with publishing articles on the AVTA website. Steven volunteered to organize and judge a writing competition. Articles will be submitted in categories according to age groups. Perhaps AVTA hats and/or t-shirts can be used as incentives. Steven will write an article for the newsletter and for the website, explaining the young people's writing competition. Phil suggested that in the future we might want to consider an art contest to design an AVTA button for the Hunter Pace which can be sold as a fund raiser. Trish suggested another barn tour in the future as a fund raising idea.

Meeting was adjourned.