

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION
August 16, 2008**

The annual meeting and picnic of the AVTA was held on August 16, 2008 at Weathertop Farm. It was called to order by the president, Trish, at 4:00 pm. Present: Trish, Gael, Jen F., Lynn, Audrey, Blaine, Gail, Mary, Jen E., Tory

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jen E. has received donations of \$555.00 for the Charles Weeden scholarship account so far this year. We currently have two scholarship recipients, one for this year and a renewal from last year.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

OLD BUSINESS:

1. At our last meeting, Ellen Cronan, a representative of the South Branch Watershed Assn., made a presentation about environmental matters that concern the Amwell Valley and the Trail Assn. Trish said that similar subjects will continue to be addressed in the future. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, Trish will forward information that she receives from the Dept. of Agriculture to members of the Board, to be discussed at future meetings.
2. Winter Doldrums party - will be held on March 7 at the Amwell Valley Fire Co. hall (Ringo's).
3. Proceeds from the Hunter Pace will be donated (one half) to the Charles Weeden Scholarship Fund, (one quarter) to the Amwell Valley Rescue Squad, and (one quarter) to the Amwell Valley Fire Co.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tory is doing a wonderful job of creating and maintaining our website.
2. So far about one half of AVTA members have renewed their memberships. Audrey will send out an email reminder to all of those who have not yet renewed.
3. The Hunter Pace will be held on Oct. 5. Di, Audrey and Jen F. are in charge of the Hunter Pace. Tory will be reporting on it in the newsletter and on the website.
Audrey brought flyers for members to take and hang in various barns and businesses for advertisement. She has also sent advertisements to multiple publications, and has sent information to all former participants as well as all surrounding trail associations.
Blaine suggested having a suggestion box available at the Pace in order to have participants give suggestions for next year. Audrey suggested sending an email to all participants after the ride, asking for feedback. Gail suggested that the volunteers handing out snacks at the end of the ride ask for feedback and opinions from participants, and jot down their suggestions on a pad.
Peacocks will not have the concession this year. The committee is investigating another way to handle food and snacks for the event.
Marking the trails - special care will be taken this year to be sure that no one removes the directional ribbons, as was the case last year.
4. All Board members agreed to continue in their Board positions for the coming year.
5. There was an extensive discussion on trail clearing and maintenance, trying to devise ways to have more AVTA members participate in trail maintenance. Suggestions included:
 - A. - "Adopt-a-trail"
 - B. - Divide the trail system into sections centered around boarding barns. Each section would have a trail boss who would organize trail maintenance for their section. Have an overall coordinator of these trail bosses.
 - C. - Have a working membership fee and a non-working membership fee, which means that volunteers who maintain trails would pay less to belong to AVTA than members who do not participate in maintenance.
 - D. - Hire outside people to trim trails. (Trish will ask Trishka, our lawyer, what the legal aspects of hiring people to work on trails would be).
 - E. - Lynn reported that in a phone conversation, Roni DeCesare said that she would be happy to keep track of the work done on trails, of hours put in by volunteers, or become coordinator of the trail maintenance bosses, set up a phone chain to organize trail clearing days, etc.As the discussion went on without any end in sight, the Board decided to revisit the issue at the next Board meeting, at which time we will form a committee to work on the solution to the situation. Lynn will contact Roni D. and ask if she would like to be a part of the committee, as she is very interested in the problem of trail maintenance.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Sept. 16 at Joan Sank's house.