

TENNESSEE TRAILS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES FROM
THE FOURTH QUARTER BOARD MEETING
AND THE 2003 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Tennessee Trails Association

4th Quarter 2003

Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 16, 2003

TTA Vice President Leigh Jones called to order the 4th Quarter Board Meeting of the Tennessee Trails Association at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 16, 2003, at the Best Western Inn in Townsend, TN. Present (noted in alphabetical order) were:

Fount Bertram
Anna Clark
Jim Clark
Arleen Decker
Libby Francis
David Furse
Bill Hamilton
Richard Helm
Charles Jones
Leigh Jones
Gloria Lenski
Jerry Lenski
Diane Manas (guest, Newsletter Editor)
Brent Morris
Martin A. McCullough
June Parker
Carolyn Pierce
Jim Poteet
Doug Ratliff
Richard Savage
Lee Sparks
Rob Weber
Susan Weber
Anne Wesley

1. Approval of 3rd Quarter Minutes

The minutes from the Third Quarter Board meeting, held August 2, 2003, were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

June Parker, treasurer, updated the Board on several matters related to TTA finances. She said that she is talking to chapter chairs and that for reporting she will ask that the "end date"

be changed to the end of the month. There will be a new form (Balance Confirmation Form) and she will mail that. She said that in actual accounts TTA are "in the black" and that the decisions made about reducing costs for the newsletter have kept us in the black.

•A motion was made that TTA use the same auditor as was used in the previous year. The motion passed.

10. Membership Report

Anne Wesley, membership director, said that TTA membership is somewhat down at approximately 960 members. She said that December, January, and February are the big renewal months and that all will be looking at these renewal numbers. She opened some discussion for what to do and how to focus on memberships at Soddy Daisy and Cumberland Gap. It was noted that with the position of East Tennessee At-Large Director now filled that perhaps more effort can be concentrated on membership at Soddy Daisy.

•A motion was made that Anne, as membership director, write the current membership at Cumberland Gap, say that the chapter has gone inactive, and urge those interested to affiliate with Cove Lake. In addition, the masthead will be dropped from the newsletter. This motion passed.

In further discussion, members noted that the Soddy Daisy area is rich with possibility and that people are needed to chair the chapter and to encourage membership renewals. For the newsletter, it was suggested that the following wording be used for Soddy Daisy: "This chapter is in the process of being reorganized. For further information, contact Arleen Decker." Arleen's phone is 865-856-7262, and her e-mail is deckerstudio@bellsouth.net.

Board members believe that there is a good possibility of having people take over at Soddy Daisy and that the needed leadership will emerge.

It was noted that Toni Reeves, Nashville, will be the new membership director and that Anne Wesley, who has served as membership director for several years, will move into the position of TTA vice president. Arleen Decker is East Tennessee At-Large Director.

In other business, the membership director announced that there are 25 new members from the Jackson area and that they have the needed leadership to form an official chapter.

Lee Sparks, Jackson, presented a petition to have the Jackson group join TTA as an official chapter. The petition was accepted by the Board, and the entire Board welcomed the new chapter. Lee Sparks can be contacted as follows: phone, 731-298-1658 and e-mail, leesp@bellsouth.net.

11. Newsletter

Diane Manas spoke about the production of the February newsletter and the need for a newsletter trainee. She asked for additional names, numbers, and e-mail addresses of those that might be interested in working on the newsletter. She said that she was sure that her absence in February would be covered and that a new newsletter editor would come forward.

11. Evan means Grants, Applications

The deadline is December 31, 2003, for the Evan Means Small Grants applications, and the awards will be made in February 2004. The budget for the Evan Means grants is \$3,000.

Fount spoke at this time about "offering our weight and knowledge" across state lines and helping with the Georgia Pinhole Project.

After some discussion, a motion was made as follows: After a draft contract and letter of request are received from the association, TTA could allocate up to \$500.00 to the Georgia Pinhole Association for the purpose of staffing . . . depending on a three to 1 matching program. The motion passed.

12. Old Business

TRAC

There was discussion of TRAC and the fact that after Jim Deming's resignation there is currently no Tennessee Rails to Trails Advisory Council representative on the TTA Board. After some discussion of the mission of TRAC and related projects, the Board decided to set up a committee for further study of the future relationship of TRAC and TTA. Committee members were named as follows: Fount Bertram, Anne Wesley, Brent Morris, and Jim Poteet.

KTA

Dennis Crowley gave a report about the current status of the Kentucky Trails Association (KTA) and distributed several handouts outlining the mission of KTA, the positives, the negatives, and the immediate needs to further organize this association. Fount said, "You have our pledge to assist once you have the basics in place." Jim Poteet was named to "head up" the support group from TTA for KTA.

13. New Business

SE Foot Trails Coalition representative

The Southeast Foot Trails Coalition has finished working on the organizational structure, and Jim Poteet has volunteered to be liaison from TTA with SEFC. J. R. Tate will be an alternate.

At this point in the Board meeting, Jim Poteet made several statements about ways to expand and generalize TTA to improve the organizational structure. He said TTA needs to get more people involved and there is much to do. He said he would like to promote a system of 3,000 Tennessee trails in the 100 Tennessee counties.

Natchez Trace Trail Conference

There was discussion about the Natchez Trace Trail Conference. Work is indeed beginning in this area, and some people are interested in a hiking only portion of the Natchez Trace Trail in Tennessee. There is a Web site being developed and Board members were urged to look at this. For additional information, Brent Morris is a contact person and Fount is also a contact person.

The calendar was discussed for the 2004 Board meetings in February, May, August, and November.

- A motion was made that the \$50.00 that was to go to Russell Smith is to go CTC.

Beverly Neurock reported that the auction brought in \$4,268.00, and sales from the bake sale were \$146.00.