

NEW YORK STATE TRAILS COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Held Virtually via WebEx
October 16, 2021 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Council Attendance:

4-Wheel Drive – Todd Syska

All-Terrain Vehicles – Jeff Binga

Equestrian – Carol Schmelz, Bill Lasher

Hiking – Donna Chapman, Stephanie Campbell,
Michaela Aney

Nordic Skiing –

Off-Highway Motorcycles –

Off-road Bicycling – Samantha Langton, Michael
Vitti

On-road Bicycling – Ivan Vamos, Harvey Botzman

Running –

Snowmobiles –

Snowshoeing –

Universal Access –

Water Trails –

ECNHC –

FHWA –

National Park Service –

HRV Greenway – Beth Campochiaro

NYS Canal Corporation –

NYSDEC –

NYSOPRHP –Tom Hotaling, Chris Morris, Nicole
Unser

NYSDOT – Karen Lorf

PTNY –

Guests: Bill Hoffman, Trail Running nominee

Call to Order & Welcome:

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM. Roll was called for attendance.

Correction/Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2021 and October 17, 2020:

Carol S made a motion to accept the minutes, Harvey B seconded. Motion carried with none opposed.

Announcements:

Chris M noted the multiple vacancies in multiple user groups: Running, Snowshoeing, Nordic Skiing, Water Trails, and Off-road motorcycles. Delegates have been notified and nominees are being sought.

Samantha L announced that she is stepping down from the Chair position due to additional commitments. Samantha will attend the spring meeting and notify the group if she can continue as a delegate.

2022 Calendar

The group selected meeting dates of **April 9** and **October 15** for the **2022** calendar year. Chris will schedule the April 9 meeting in-person at DEC's Five Rivers location and cancel as circumstances dictate. April 9 meeting will return to the 10:30 to 3:30 timeframe.

New Delegates

Bill Hoffman introduced himself and was accepted as a Trail Running delegate.

Spring Elections and Nominations

Delegates should form a nominating committee and solicit for both the Chair and Co-Chair positions which will be elected at April 9 meeting.

Delegate Report Highlights and Q&A:

Delegates submitted written reports electronically prior to the meeting. (attached)

- Letter of Support for ECNHC was discussed. Ivan reminded the group that the draft letter should reflect both motorized and non-motorized watercraft uses. Motion to draft and send the letter with noted edits was made by Ivan V. and seconded by Jeff B. Motion carried with none opposed. Chris will circulate the finalized letter with edits.
- Harvey B. discussed the Amtrak Adventure Cycling Task Force's effort to add four bikes racks per passenger car to many Northeast lines. Harvey made a motion, seconded by Ivan V, for the Trails Council to send a letter of support for this effort. Motion carried with none opposed.

New Business:

- Samantha L discussed an issue of trail closures in the Catskills on DEC's Vernooey Kill and Sundown Forests. Our DEC representative, McCrea, was not in attendance so the suggestion was made to reach out directly to McCrea B or to DEC Region 3 HQ for clarification.
- Samantha L also discussed her efforts to assemble an updated trail maintenance guide based on field data collection.
- Karen L. noted that NYS DOT is updating their Complete Streets program and checklist. Karen also discussed e-bikes and some data showing that they do not always result in higher speeds than your average bike. The group discussed the various bike facility design and potential conflicts due to higher speed.
- Harvey B. discussed the positive aspects of the Catharine Valley Trail and Genesee Valley Greenway and how they should be promoted and expanded. Chris M noted the possible avenues to work on trail expansion with Regional reps for Parks.
- Chris M. notified the group that OPRHP will be moving ahead to update our Statewide Trails Plan and the agency is interested in soliciting input and feedback from the various user groups.
- Carol S. requested an update from Jeff B. on OHV trails and areas for riding. Jeff mentioned that there is advocacy for statewide legislation to provide more lands to ride. Chris M. reminded the group to collaborate outside of the meetings to advance their ideas.
- Harvey B. recommended the Trails Council and/or OPRHP participate in DOT's future Bike-Walk conference in Rochester, May 2022.

Next meeting: April 9, 2022, 10:30 AM **In-person @ DEC's Five Rivers location.**

Adjournment: Harvey B. made a motion to adjourn, Ivan V. seconded. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:52am