

## MINUTES OCSJ BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 14, 2024 Meeting Number 3

**Present:** Barbara Berman, Kathy Billman, Barbara Brandt, Christine Denneker, Kevin Drevik, Joe Fabian, Vicky Gordon, Doug Hillebrecht, Fran Horn, Mark Laible, Rosemary Mason, Linda McGrane, Frank Pearce, Becky Strickland, Eloise Williams

**Absent:** Maura Mawn

**Guests:** Rob Auermuller, David Robertson

### Previous Minutes

February minutes were circulated via email and approved unanimously.

### President's Comments – Joe Fabian

Welcomed new Biking Chair, Linda McGrane and guest, Rob Auermuller, Regional Superintendent for the Southern NJ Park Service

### Treasurer's Report February 2024 – Mark Laible

TD Bank Checking Account	\$ 1,890.75	
Outstanding Checks	<u>\$ (749.00)</u>	\$ 1,141.75
TD Bank Internet Account	\$ 3,121.65	
Outstanding Check	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	\$ 3,121.65
TD Bank Money Market Account	\$ 12,395.97	
Greve Memorial Funds	<u>\$ 7,468.01</u>	\$19,863.98
Certificate of Deposit (4.25%) Expires 7/28/24		\$40,147.55
TOTAL ASSETS:		<u>\$ 64,274.93</u>
Retained Earnings from Prior Years		\$63,825.95
Net Income (loss)		<u>448.98</u>
Retained Earnings		<u>\$64,274.93</u>

February's Income Statement was emailed and background info: Sept 30 ends the fiscal year. February saw lots of members added so dues were higher. Expenses included Brochures/decals, credit card fees and Batona Trail

Patches for a total of \$884. Upcoming expenses will be the March Leader’s Luncheon. Mark has an additional Wild Apricot Expense Request that will be examined.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by Becky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Berman - approved.

**January Membership Report – Ro Mason**

January				PAST MONTHS
Single	966	New	60	Jan 1490
Family	459	Lapsed	33	Dec 1486
Lifetime	31	Checks	5	Nov 1490
2023 Qualified Leaders	54	Pending	6	
OCSJ Board	16			
<b>1526 Total</b>				

Up 36 members from last month

**Activities – Frank Pearce**

**Canoe/Kayaking - Frank Pearce**

1<sup>st</sup> Club Kayak trip is scheduled for this Saturday. Some members have already been out unofficially clearing some waterways.

**Hiking – Becky Strickland**

69 hikes in February with 30 leaders and 121 hikes YTD. 4 new Leaders have been trained this year. There are approximately 50 Hike Leaders (but will be

**Cycling – Linda McGrane**

Will gather trip reports for next meeting. There have been several requests lately to join the Biking Meet-up so new members already. Waivers for the year have not been turned in yet but Linda expects them to start rolling in soon.

**Backpacking/Camping – Kevin Drevik**

Six trips planned over the next three months – March/April & June: three planned by Kevin, three by Ro. There will be at least three more later in the season, including a week-long backpack in Virginia.

**Cross-Country Skiing – Barbara Brandt**

We had two trips with good skiing, one that was completely cancelled and one with not enough snow to ski in the area, but several members went anyway and went hiking and exploring the area. Members new to Cross-Country joined and expect them to be back to join us next year! Shout-out to Frank for moving XC Skiing to Kayaking meetup – easier to differentiate events between the two due to seasonality.

### **Trail Maintenance – Ro Mason**

We lost a few workdays, both Tuesdays and Saturdays, due to weather. We've done work at Franklin Parker, Brendan Byrne, Mullica River Trail, re-blazed portions of the Batona Trail as well as filled in holes from beaver damage. Future work includes walkway on flood-prone areas of the Red Trail at FPP and 87 holes for wayside signs in the State Parks requested by Rob Auermuller. Approximately 20 people participate each Tuesday.

### **Fund Requests –**

No fund requests but some discussion around contract for Leaders Luncheon and upcoming Club Picnic – both already budgeted.

### **Old Business**

#### **Leaders Banquet – Barb Berman**

Held March 24 at Riverton Country Club. Everything is on schedule, ordered podium, microphone, table set-up for sign-ins, Frank is bringing banner. Maura Mawn will check people in. Cash bar, event at 2, food start at 2:30. Speakers then dessert. Paul Begley will substitute for Paul Beatty and he'll introduce Linda as new Biking Chair. 80 people coming.

Waiver pads were requested. Doug will print more with a change in the design – Cell Phone will replace Email.

#### **Club Picnic - Doug**

Saturday, May 11 set as this year's date with rain date of the 12th. To be held again at Pakim Pond. There's a limit of 100 people – but people will be encouraged to put their names on the Waiting List due to possible drop-outs. Doug requested all hikes and bike rides end no sooner than 11:45 so people are waiting for lunch. There will be various hikes/bike rides to sign up AND the Picnic list – so everyone needs to sign up for both an event and the picnic to help track the participants. Ro will ask John Stevens to DJ. Mark will head-up games. Doug and Lennie will care for food and paper products.

#### **Club Insurance – Joe**

Still waiting on documentation for current insurance policy – the club is covered but want to validate a few things. Have been advised to use what we have in previous years. E-Bikes included but currently no-distinction, peddle-assist vs full electric. Club allows peddle-assist E-bikes. Class I E-Bikes are usually allowed in most clubs where they typically go no faster than 20 mph. Class III with the Throttle removed. Class II are generally not allowed since they are a heavier, faster bike which could cause more damage.

Rock-climbing not covered under current insurance; Disc-Golf is.

## **E-Bike NJ Assembly Bill – Joe**

There is a bill to require Insurance and Registration on E-Bikes, noted more visible in North/Central Jersey. There are issues with some people losing their drivers licenses and then opting for E-Bikes, and many are getting high-end, expensive bikes and if stolen, registration would make them easier to recover.

**Entering the Business Meeting portion and guests were asked to leave.**

## **New Business**

### **New Jersey State Park Access and 501 (c)(7) and 501 (c) (3) Federal Non-Profit Tax Status**

Regional Superintendent of Southern New Jersey State Parks, Robert Auermuller was invited to help explain some of the changes and challenges faced by the parks with access by groups – and needing to enforce rules that have been in affect for a long time that they have let slide such as requesting permits for events/hikes.

The Park rules do not make a differentiation between profit-based or non-profit organizations, but an Officially Recognized Friends Organization (ORFO) would be able to continue to operate within the Parks without needing permits. As an ORFO for State Parks we'd still be able to recreate in other areas, but will have special arrangements via a memorandum of agreement with the state. ORFOs need to be a 501 (c) (3) charity.

OCSJ is a 501 (c) (7) Not-for-profit, steps had been made previously to become Non-Profit but they did not work out. Rob considers OCSJ to already be a "Friends Group" however pressure is coming from Trenton to do things by the books. To change to a Non-Profit will take some time but Rob and Team are willing to hold-off until we can do it. Some of the issues are Non-Profits benefit the public solely, and while our club does Trail Work that benefits the public, most of the other benefits are members-only. Opening our events to the public would affect our insurance. Becoming a Non-Profit would offer Tax benefits and open up for donations and grants.

Comments/Suggestions:

Offering a "Suggested Donation" instead of a set membership fee. This could also backfire if members learn they no longer have to help with costs.

Open up all events in State Parks/Forests but keep members only everywhere else.

May need to dissolve current organization and become a new entity with a simple name if changed to Non-Profit.

OCSJ could become a chapter of another ORFO.

Members would need to agree according to the Club Articles.

Create a committee to look into the process.

Contract with a Lawyer experienced in Non-Profit law to help with the process

Barb offered to collect criteria/questions to provide to lawyers

Rob offered to contact JORBA – Jersey Off Road Bicycling Association to learn what process they used to become Non-Profit.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Barb Berman seconded by Becky. Meeting adjourned.

**Submitted by**

Vicky Gordon, Recording Secretary

**President** - Joe Fabian