

SCTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the SCTA was called to order at 6:06 pm on October 17, 2023, by President Samantha Perry. Board members present (9): Samantha Perry, Cindy Stedman, Karen Wappelhorst, Laurie LeRoy, Daniel Johnson, Robin Vose, Terry Stedman, Monica Quarmby, Marilyn Spoon.

(2) Guests: Theresa Reynolds (Chair: Trail Maintenance Committee) in addition to approximately 20 members. The signature list of those in attendance was not provided.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

August and September Meeting Minutes

The revised August 15, 2023 minutes and the September 19, 2023 meeting minutes were approved. (9)-YES (unanimous) The August 15th minutes were corrected to reflect that **10** donations were converted to memberships in 2023. The minutes will be forwarded to be posted on our website.

LAURIE - MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There were no changes to the membership list: remains at 323 members of which 135 are new memberships for 2023.

KAREN - TREASURER REPORT

Bank Account Balance = \$14, 336.79 (as of 9/30/2023 statement)

INCOME: \$100.00

Donations (Unrestricted) \$100

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,854.17

Utilities: \$91.09

Entertainment-music Pot Luck: \$250

Pavilion Supplies: \$33.98

Pavilion Pot Luck Expense (meat): \$204.56

Legal Fees (remainder of approved retainer): \$1,000

Reimbursement (tar removal from vehicles): \$800

Trails-Garden Kings (trail/pavilion cleanup): \$5,155.00

Trails-Timbers (water bars): \$140.00

Trails-signs-paint (new trail sign boards): \$49.27

Trails-Materials (tar and broom): \$130.27

Subtotal: Trails expense: \$5,474.54

DONATIONS: \$100 donation was from Barbara and Chris Lamance

\$25 Gift Certificates remaining = 4

SAMANTHA-FACEBOOK REPORT

Currently have 1,000 members. The admins. continue to review/approve all posts for appropriate subject and content.

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KATHY BROWN - WELCOME COMMITTEE

Kathy worked with Sue Bertch, our webmaster, to update content and improve access to information. She also met with Laurie to become familiar with the TN Tax/Real-estate database to produce reports for committee use.

THERESA REYNOLDS – MEMBER VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORK COMMITTEE

The board approved the October Trail Maintenance log for update to the website. Theresa reported that work is complete on the Hupp property to add additional rock and improve drainage runoff. The next workdays will address maintenance needed on the Wild Cat Den trail, including grading/crusher run, and the installation of water bars.

LAURIE – MAPS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

Cindy Stedman will be the new chairman of this committee.

LAURIE - BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Meetings were held on Sept. 21st and Oct. 5th with long hours and valuable input from the committee members. The committee has reviewed background documents (charter, by-laws, mission, relevant laws). The “Suggested Changes” list has 24 items to date. The TN NFP publication “What Every Board Member Should Know” will be discussed at the upcoming Oct. 19th meeting, along with additional recommendations submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

LAURIE - YARD SALE September 30, 2023

Rented 8 tables, 2 lawn spaces at the pavilion, and 8 map address locations. There was steady traffic, but less than previous years. Net profit (fund raiser) was \$216, which was also significantly less than prior years, as we did not have the additional activities such as the bake sale/silent action/lunch sales, etc. Suggestions were made to perhaps add a 50/50 raffle, sell breakfast or lunch items to increase revenue and traffic next year.

LAURIE-OUTSOURCED TRAIL CLEARING/CLEANUP PROJECT

The Garden Kings crews worked 206 hours over 5 work days, (cost of \$5,155) , plus \$145 for rock = a Total project cost of \$5,300. Garden Kings provided all of the equipment and fuel. Six miles of trails were cleared of small trees/overgrowth to provide 10 foot wide and 7 foot high canopy clearance. The pavilion was mowed/debris removed from back storage area/rotted wood removed and burned. The horse crossings by the pavilion were redone. (unfortunately, two vehicles ran through wet tar, which the SCTA reimbursed for cleaning and replacement) A load of crusher run was ordered and ½ load used to fill 5 large mud holes on the Proctor Ridge Trail. (Remaining ½ load to pavilion storage area.) Tree debris was hauled to the pavilion and burned.

The full project plan will be posted on the SCTA website.

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LAURIE - SADDLE VALLEY PROJECT

These trails (approximately 2 miles) provide an access loop from our Evergreen Trail to the Cumberland Valley Trail Head. (see SCTA map). The sections that are on private land are open to the public, as are the sections that are on county roadsides. The property owners are providing all of the materials and equipment. The SCTA is only providing some project coordination and volunteer labor to help make these trails safer for everyone. Theresa Reynolds, Laurie LeRoy and Theresa Elam walked the trails on Sept. 25th to create an initial work list.

A second meeting was held on Oct. 7th to review maps, materials and manpower. A big thank you to Laurie, Theresa Reynolds, Daniel Johnson, Monica Quarmby, Marilyn Spoon, Larry McMillian, Ed Elam, Theresa Elam, Tim Sutton, and Sue Bertch. The major activities include: removing barbed wire fencing that has fallen down over the years with electric braid rope, repair several steep/washed out areas, general trail cleanup/trimming, replace the two bridges which span wet spring and water run off areas.

A very successful workday was held on Oct. 14th, with 18 volunteers and 3 tractors. All of the clearing, barbed wire removal, and replacement fencing were completed. The timbers and rock were placed to begin bridge construction. The bridge work is planned for Nov. 18th and Nov. 28th.

A project plan will be put out on the SCTA website.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONFIRMATION OF E-MAIL VOTES FOR MINUTES

9/19/2023 Acceptance of Jim Kiely board member resignation (8) YES unanimous

9/21/2023 Approval of Marilyn Spoon as board member to replace Jim Kiely term to May 2024 (8) YES unanimous

9/24/2023 Approval "Unofficial" board meeting summary for posting (8) YES, Daniel DNV

9/26/2023 Approval \$350 for 1 load crusher run & \$150 for water bars-Evergreen Trail (8) YES Daniel DNV

9/30/2023 Approval \$350 for 1 load of crusher run for Willie Lee Trail/Rielys towards Wild Cat (9) YES unanimous

10/1/2023 Approval to post final project summary-Trail Clearing/Clean up Project

10/9/2023 Approval \$1,000 to add to retainer and pay remaining balance of \$317.50 on previous retainer amount (9) YES unanimous

10/12/2023 Approval \$980 additional for Garden Kings for Trail clearing/cleanup project (6) YES Laurie, Sam, Marilyn, Karen, Daniel, Cindy (w/question), Terry, Robin, Monica DNV

10/16/2023 Approval for revision to 9/15/2023 Board Meeting Minutes (9) Unanimous

10/16/2023 Approval for 9/19/2023 Board Meeting Minutes (9) Unanimous

SAMANTHA-POLICIES REVIEW

The review of the SCTA policies was continued at a special board meeting held October 13, 2023. The final approved versions will be posted on the SCTA website.

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CINDY-PAVILION PEST CONTROL AND TERMITE INSPECTION

Cindy reported that Universal Pest Control has inspected the building and found no evidence of termites. They also sprayed for insects. The cost is \$65.00.

CINDY-MEETING WITH RYAN REED/ROAD SUPERINTENDANT

Cindy, Terry, and Samantha had a very productive meeting with Ryan Reed on Sept. 27th to look at several areas where our trails are on county/roadside property and in need of repair.

1. Evergreen Lane-across from the Spruce Creek Campground: SCTA will continue to direct riders to the campground side of the road and add some crusher run to minimize erosion. The county will work on the other side of the road to repair the ditch. We will assist if needed.
2. Spruce Creek Dr-entrance from 297: SCTA will fix the ditch w/fabric, riprap, small rock, crusher run and water bars/drain pipe if necessary. County will assist if needed.
3. Horse crossing on Spruce Creek Dr. by the pavilion: The county will put in appropriate materials during the winter months.
4. Spruce Cr. Dr. across from Tucker property: Water Dept. to address leaking water pipe. SCTA to move trail closer to the fence and county will provide rock for fill and leveling.
5. Trail crossing by Taft Story Rd.: SCTA to add cross tie/railroad tie and crusher run. County will repave the road.

Ryan asked if we could help with the cost of these projects. He will get an estimate to be presented to the board for approval/disapproval. Most of the county work will be planned for the winter months.

Regular meeting business was concluded at 6:47pm.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THOSE ATTENDING

Theresa Reynolds – suggested that the Board consider creating a Social Committee and a Fund-Raising Committee.

Brenda Goett-thanked those who contributed 110 volunteer hours on horseback snipping back foliage on BSF, SCTA and other area trails.

Raquel Nichols asked when a summary of the SCTA lawyer consultations would be available. There are a few items still being discussed, but a summary is in progress and will be provided to all members.

Chris Davidson asked if we had an answer from the lawyer concerning the “acquisition, disposition of trails requires a membership vote” question. It’s complicated. She is working with us to provide a solid explanation for us to provide to the by-law committee and the membership.

Cary Simpson noted that the 2 lost horses (in the BSF) are still missing. A group of 10 volunteers are helping with the search effort.

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Raquel Nichols and Marcy Norwood noted that there is a continued perception that this board is pressuring landowners to provide trails through their property. The Board responded that we certainly would not want to make anyone feel uncomfortable. We have spoken to a number of residents and outside landowners over the years. Some have said “yes” and some have said “no”. We would not have some of the trails we have if we, and prior boards, had not been able to discuss and create agreements for new and alternative trails. We will be mindful, however, to be sensitive to this perception.

Wayne Stancil asked for clarification concerning the ownership of the trails. The board explained that the trails are not owned by the residents or members. The trails are owned by the SCTA, which is a corporation. Among other things, this structure provides liability protection for Spruce Creek Landowners. The residents and/or members can not be held liable/be sued as the ownership/deeds/agreements are held by the corporation.

Submitted by Laurie LeRoy-approved