

REGULAR MEETING
December 12, 2015

ATTENDEES: Nancy & Bill Sluys, Holly Schenk, Diane Cherry, Elin & Roger Call, Wayne Frazier, Annie Malone, Ann Crawford, Anne Lemere, Byron Wallace, Gina Hagis, Susan Tomaselli, Ron McArthur, Jennifer Mulligan, Fritz Eckstein, Guy Wilkerson

Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

#1 chapter approval from Nov 3 state meeting (minutes emailed to all 11/5)

Ensured everyone knew we were formally approved as a chapter.

#2 Treasurer's report

BCH of VA sent the operational fund money we were due from the IMBCH treasury. This totaled \$920.90. Dawn Theisen Good opened an account for BCHVH at The National Bank. She has the forms for Ann Crawford and Wayne Frazier to complete so they will be able to sign checks if needed in future.

Expenses for the year so far were \$75 for corporation fee and \$16 for BCHVH checks. Current balance of bank account \$839.90.

(See treasurer's report summary below.)

Question rose if we should create temporary budget committee. Decision was to leave initial budget creation for development by officers and board with approval by the membership.

#3 BCHVH website – Nancy has created an initial version for review

Nancy will publish the website and would like feedback from folks on what they like/don't like or any other ideas for other information that should be on the site.

Please go check it out at www.bchvh.org

#4 corporate approval and 501c3 application status

Discussed the corporation fee of \$25/year and need to be a corporation in order to apply for 501(c)(3) status. We would like to have the 501(c)(3) status in order to apply for grant money for specific trail projects. The cost of the 501(c)(3) application is \$400 and the 1023EZ form must be submitted online. Question rose if we should move forward with spending money for this expense. Anne made a motion to go for the 501(c)(3) status. Motion approved by all.

Discussed that Jennifer French, Dawn, and Diane would create a temporary committee to document the requirements for book keeping and other record keeping in order to maintain 501(c)(3) status.

#5 Calendar from bylaws and other bylaws issues

Updated members on what the board discussion on bylaws review had decided. The board felt it would be better to take notes on any changes we thought we would want to make in future to the bylaws but not do any detail review at this time. Members agreed that we could live with current version for a year before making changes.

#6 discussion of meeting locations and dates (regular, BOD, committees)

Decided to only determine when the next regular meeting would occur. Keeping with idea to meet on third Saturday in a month we plan to have the next meeting on January 16th. Meeting location is Jennifer French's office building in Wytheville. The office is located at 325 East Main St and has parking in the garage under the building. Meeting time will be 5:30pm and several folks are planning to go out to eat after the meeting.

#7 email forwarding questions: everything from BCHA?

Discussed the forwarded messages from Peg at BCHA and folks were happy to have the emails sent to them and decide for themselves if they want to read them.

Gina asked that if the email was about something really important then try to put something in the subject line to indicate the need to read the email.

#8 web page info: American Trails, BCHA web and FB, ELCR

Went over that there are several interesting web sites like the above and decided that these will all be listed on our links page on the BCHVH web site.

#9 Is everyone getting their BCHA quarterly newsletter?

Yes, everyone at the meeting has been receiving these. If you are not then please let Diane know.

#10 New volunteer agreement with the Forest Service

Sue Combs emailed Nancy the new volunteer agreement for BCHVH. On December 9th Nancy and Diane met with the forest service to go over the volunteer agreement forms. The initial form was completed and has been approved by the forest service. Along with the volunteer agreement Sue sent Nancy several Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) forms that must be reviewed and signed by all members. We will plan to go over these at the next meeting and have members sign them. If you cannot attend the January 16th meeting we will need to obtain your signature on the forms to show you reviewed the items. These sheets will eventually need to be turned over to the forest service.

The other documents Sue sent Nancy were a tail gate safety log sheet and a trail project log sheet. The date that the JHA forms are reviewed must be referenced on the trail project sheet.

The Volunteer agreement, JHA documents and trail project sheets will be sent to all members.

#11 Valley Divide Project - workers needed this winter/spring

At the meeting on December 9th the forest service also discussed with us the Valley Divide Project located near Sugar Grove. This is the project we previously volunteered to help on, especially for helping to clear out the area in the 3.5 mile stretch of new trail between Route 16 and the Virginia Highlands Trail. The trail has already been marked and the forest service is planning to work on clearing this section this winter and spring. They are not working on weekends until next April so have asked us to see if there are any days that a few folks could get together to meet with

them on the trail work during the week. Once they have gone over the trail work with us during a week day we should be able to set up work parties on the weekend if folks are available.

When this bypass/connection trail is complete it will make a great loop in that area. Anne asked if we could use utvs on this project. Nancy said she learned they are allowing utv use in other areas so we need to check into this.

Forest service has asked us to pick a work date in January and alternate weather date. Once we have set these they will contact the bicycle groups and ask them to join us as well. This will be a good chance to connect with other trail users groups.

#12 Mount Rogers NRA 50 year anniversary

This is the 50th year of the MRNRA and the main week of celebration events is May 28th thru June 4th. The forest service is planning event all year and in all areas of the MRNRA. They invited our chapter to put on some kind of event/demo/ride some time during this week and would advertize it on their website if we notify them.

Annie asked about Doug Crigger bringing a string of 6-8 horses to have a ride and will look into that option. Another idea was to get a reporter who wanted to participate in the ride and do a write up. May also want to plan to have our chapter have booth set up somewhere the forest service is doing events during this week.

Nancy pointed out she is not available during this week and asked others to think about getting involved.

#13 Forest Service Chain Saw Classes – new and recertification

Nancy asked about any chain saw classes they might be having this year. There will be courses in April, opening will depend on how many folks in the ATC are attending, so they will let us know asap.

Cross cut course set for April 2-3rd

Chain saw courses planned for April 23-24th

-Bill indicated if you do not have protective equipment the forest service will provide it during the training days

-Roger clarified that after you take the chain saw class you are not certified until you complete the first aid requirements – his first aid class was several days for a cost of \$80 – Jennifer mentioned that the Eastern Divide BCH chapter recently was able to get first aid training at just the cost of the book - first aid and CPR needs to be official work that FS will accept.

#14 Other items discussed at Forest Service Meeting

Nancy asked the forest service about moving forward to make enlargements at the Brush Creek kiosk parking area, indicating that we had \$2000 in a trail fund account available. The forest service said they would do a cost analysis for that work and let Nancy know.

Nancy indicated that we should be looking at our trail problems and coming up with solutions to them to present to the forest service.

Anne said the Bourne Branch trail is getting worse and worse and needs work - some are muddy spots, roots, etc. Nancy said we need to identify the problem spots and create plans for fixing them on future trail work day.

Nancy also indicated that in March there is a national professional trail builder's association conference in Knoxville. Nancy is working with the forest service to try and find a way she could use the Endurance Ride profits to send two of the forest service guys to the conference.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm.

BCHVH Treasurer Report December 12, 2015

Income:

\$920.90 Check from BCH VA, half of the operating funds from IMBCH.

Expenses:

\$16 Cost of checks at The National Bank (branches in Marion and Wytheville)

\$75 Cost of incorporation application (\$50) and initial yearly dues (\$25)

Current Balance - \$839.90 (Income – expenditures \$920.90 - \$91)

Anticipated Expenses:

\$25 Yearly cost for incorporation

\$400 1023EZ application cost for 501(c)(3) approval

\$520 2016 dues to National and State [14 family (\$18/\$5) and 11 single (\$15/\$3)]

?? printer ink and paper

?? stamps

\$945 Total Anticipated Expenses

Anticipated Income:

\$560 Family Dues (14 * \$40)

\$275 Single Dues (11 * \$25)

\$835 Total Anticipated Dues Income (full renewal of all members)