

BCHVH REGULAR MEETING
January 16, 2016

ATTENDEES: Diane Cherry, Dawn Theisen, Nancy & Bill Sluys, Holly Schenk, Wayne Frazier, Ronnie Patton, Judith Shrum, Ann Crawford, Annie Malone, Greg Good

Ann called the meeting to order at 5:40pm

#1 – Secretary asked for and received approval of the December 12th meeting minutes

#2 - Treasurer's report – Dawn passed out copies of the treasurer's report – see attachment – report was approved

- Discussion on the dues we need to pay state and national, motion made to send in dues for only those members that have paid for 2016 – motion passed

- members who have not yet paid will be sent one more email on sending in their dues and if it is not received by end of January they will be dropped from BCHA as chapter member and will be removed from our email list – Dues should be mailed to Dawn, contact Diane if you need any information to send in your dues.

- Nancy donated the \$500 she was reimbursed in 2015 for her trip to the National Board Meeting so it could be used in sending a delegate to the NBM in 2016

Dawn gave Ann and Wayne the information for the National Bank so they can co sign on checks on the BCHVH account if needed

Old Business

#3 - Forest Service Job Hazard Analysis documents – the 4 Job Hazard Analysis documents (Environmental Exposure, Trail Maintenance & Construction, Brushing/Chainsaw Use, Crosscut Saw Use) from the forest service were discussed and signatures were obtained from all members present to be given to the forest service as part of the volunteer agreement – all members should review these and send copy of signature page with date reviewed to Diane at dcrmgs@centurylink.net

#4 - BCHVH website feedback – Links page was just added by Nancy;

- trail fund page needs updating on 501c3 status & this should be on home page too

- volunteer hours page – suggest adding downloadable document with information on what time can be reported for volunteer hours

- files page – discussion on posting minutes was held and decision was not to post the minutes since they are sent to all but they are also available to anyone from secretary

- events and trails day page – can we separate past/future events more clearly?

- about us page– would like to have this more personalized for this chapter, what we see us doing over the next 5 years, those kinds of ideas

- contact page – should remove the map since is confusing now

If you haven't yet seen our webpage at www.bchvh.org check it out

Discussion on wanting a Face book page for BCHVH – decision was yes, Nancy will create it, it will be a closed group

#5 - 501c3 chapter activities description and goals – short discussion on wanting to get youth involvement ideas – also announced that we are now an official 501c3 organization!!!

#6 - Mount Rogers NRA 50 year anniversary – May 28th to June 4th – discussion on ideas for this – determined a committee should be formed – members who are on the committee are Annie Malone (chairman), Dawn Theisen, Greg Good, Ann Crawford, Diane Cherry – Nancy suggested we connect with Sara Schell at the FS to coordinate what we plan so they can post on their website – may set up booth at the FS head quarters – Annie will check with Doug Crigger to see if he is available sometime during that week; Diane will contact Deb Sensabaugh to see if she can bring her mules down for some packing demos

#7 - Trail Tools – Nancy gave us current inventory of tools from the forest service – 3 axes, 3 brush axes, 3 pulaskis, 4 mcclouds, 4 shovels, 5 fire racks, first aid kit – these will be labeled and made available to anyone for trail work days, will have storage in the Fries area and just contact Nancy or Diane to ask about borrowing them

New Business

#8 - Youth involvement ideas / Tshirts offer – Annie summarized what she'd discussed with other BCH friend – we need to contact youth groups like 4-H and scouts in Smythe and Wythe counties, try county extension for information in each area, Judith found boy scout troop 197 in Wytheville, scoutlander.com, other ideas were church groups and possibly juvenile correction system – Annie asked that we all try to Google for contacts and info about this and bring to next meeting –she will start to organize all contacts received – any ideas email Annie at kissingrock@va.net

#9 - Report on Jan 9th BCHVA meeting – Diane's summary report will be sent to members - highlights are that Diane was selected as new State Chairman, Elin was selected as 1st Vice Chairman, Diane also selected as one of the delegates to the National Board Meeting this year

#10 - Report on Jan 11th workday for the Valley Divide Project – attendees: Bill Sluys, John Denton (both sawyers), Nancy Sluys (crew leader), Kevin Nunn, Diane Cherry, Judith Shrum, Greg Good, Dawn Theisen, Mike McClelland, Dick ?, Steven & Evan from the Forest Service - Forest service said this is their priority project (and we should focus on this as our priority project too unless a need comes up elsewhere) Judith said John Denton may go one day this week and we ask if anyone would like to go during the week to send email to folks so maybe someone else can also attend (FS won't work weekends until April); Nancy summarized the work day and gave us some other potential dates if weather is good, planning work on Friday with following Monday alternative in case of bad weather – February 5th/8th; March 4th/7th or 11th/14th; in April we can do weekends - April 9th or 16th

#11 Email with Jim McGarvey on National Trails Summit – Diane gave summary of the BCHVA report on the Trails Summit meeting they attended in November in Washington

with many forest service representatives and other outdoor associations. BCHA sent letter to Joe Meade at the forest service expressing their disappointment in the meeting and they received a response back from Joe describing how the forest service intends to move forward in implementing additional volunteer workers for trail maintenance – both letters will be sent to all members

#12 Email with Randy Rasmussen on materials and trail realignment plan – Diane summarized her emails with Randy in response to seeing him mention his assessment of the USFS proposal for trails plan on Mt Rogers Nat'l Recreation Area – Randy has agreed to have call to go over his conclusions reached in 2015 and to update him on what else has happened on this issue – members were asked if they had any specific questions to ask Randy on this issue – will be checking with him on what he feels is an appropriate BCH chapter response when the trail realignment plan work resumes – summary of the call will be sent to members

#13 - Schedule upcoming meetings - would like to have meetings monthly for now, summer weather can be at triple C, Annie offered her place for folks to stay over on weekend Valley Divide work days - Nancy will check with Steven at the FS for work days, right now Valley Divide project should be our top priority for trail work unless something else becomes urgent

Next meeting will be on February 20th and will be held at the Wytheville Community College again and will start at 5:30pm

Also mentioned having meetings on March 19th and April 16th

#14 - St Jude's Ride – Dawn asked if our BCH chapter could sponsor a St Jude's Ride she would put on at her farm – she was planning a 9 mile trail ride with marked trails but the issue of needing a permit to mark trails for a ride was brought up and the cost for that is \$350 and would take 6 months to get established, without the permit we did not feel that BCH could be a sponsor for the ride

#15 - Friends of Mt Rogers – Dawn suggested that we should join this organization as a chapter membership since they also work on trails and do public awareness meetings, also they are the organization we are donating our trail fund money to if we ever dissolve the chapter - Annie made a motion for us to join and it was approved by all, Dawn will send in the membership form – Diane will send scanned information on Friends of Mt Rogers to the membership

#16 - Reminder that your trail hours should be emailed to Elin Call at wildwoodsporthorses@gmail.com

- Elin has written up a description of what volunteer time can be reported and is checking on a few questions in this area with BCHA, a copy of her current write up will be sent to all members and updated in the future

Meeting adjourned 7:40pm.