



Volkssport Club at West Point

10 August 2023 Fall Club Zoom Meeting Minutes

Joan Vorbach, Club President, called the meeting to order.

Those in attendance:

- Club President Joan Vorbach
- Club Secretary Carol Schmidt
- Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt
- Club Hyde Park Point of Contact Tom Nisonger
- Club Cornwall Point of Contact Dorothy Basini
- Club member Betty Green
- Club member Andrea Capodanno
- Club Member Joan Kimmel

Joan reminded the club we received accolades from the AVA in honor of our 35th Anniversary of VCWP membership. Included in their package were a certificate and ribbon. Images were sent to the membership along with the letter of congratulations from the AVA Board Chair Nancy Wittenberg in a "*Flash email*" dated 29 June 2023.

Joan noted that the 2023 annual club picnic (scheduled on Saturday, 5 August) was cancelled due to the weather. This was due to the NY State historical Site's schedule (they close in the fall), which will not be rescheduled.

Joan reported that she and Treasurer Andrew attended the 2023 West Point Community Fair at West Point on Wednesday 26

August. About half dozen new names were added to the club email mailing list.

Joan then discussed the topic of club wearables.

- For badges, club member Peggy Goetz confirmed that they were previously made by Crown Trophy in Pearl River. Andrew will develop information for the club membership to obtain a badge.
For tee-shirts and hats, club member Joan Kimmel confirmed that Millman's in Poughkeepsie no longer does hats or embroidery.
- The club needs a club volunteer as "Wearables Coordinator" to find a new hats and shirts dealer and assist in ordering them for our club members. This will be communicated in an issue of "*Stepping Out!*" for a volunteer.

Joan informed the membership that the 2024 Event Sanctioning has begun. Several items relating to 2024 were mentioned:

- Joe DiMichele is taking over the Beacon and Cold Spring YREs from Judge Tom Scuccimarra.
- She offered thanks to Tom for providing planning and POCing both walks since 2006 (Cold Spring) and Beacon (2007).
- The club will re-sanction all our existing 9 events in 2024.
- The club is not planning to sanction the Empire State Trail that Andrew was contemplating last year due to anticipated lack of participation by all AVA members.
- We need to enter sanction information to AVA by end of August for "*Starting Point*" inclusion.

We will be planning the 2024 Calendar Session in October or November as usual.

We are still looking for a “PR” person to help get the word out of our events and walks and such in local media. This is not a high stress or heavy time commitment job. In the event we enlist a volunteer, anything else that you may wish to do to help publicize the club would be appreciated as well.

Joan mentioned the future calendar items (note: Always check online for the most recent updates!); see the list online.

Joan mentioned the joint VCWP/ Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club (CVVC) Weekend of 9-10 September 2023. On Saturday, the clubs will walk the Windsor CT YRE. On the next day (Sunday), we will walk the Walkway Over the Hudson Event. These events are low key, just a chance to mingle and walk with fellow Volkssporters in a near-by club.

On 30 September 2023, the club will be holding its annual Ramble Event. This year, we have sanctioned a ‘Traditional Event’ in New Paltz. This will be the first time we have walked in New Paltz since 2021. As usual, it is named as the “Gail Vorbach” Memorial Walk in honor of the late Gail’s work in establishing the route.

The AVA Northeast Region Event was described. It is tentatively scheduled over the 6-8 September 2024 weekend. We are the coordinating club, along with CVVC. ESCV members will help on the actual event day if needed.

- Friday night will consist of the social hour at Germania Society’s Ocktoberfest, A banquet will be held on Saturday night with walks on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday both in our

area as well as in the CVVC area. Work is in progress with a committee, and if any club member wishes to volunteer in any way, please let Andrew know. We will need volunteers to help staff tables, work on signage, etc.

Joan noted that as a small club without a lot of volunteers, we still have done very well in the last few years, and with more volunteers, we could do better!

Joan offered a bunch of THANK YOUs!

- To our officers:
 - Joan Vorbach, President
 - Jessica Ruit, Vice President
 - Carol Schmidt, Secretary
 - Andrew Schmidt, Treasurer
- To our Point of Contacts (POCs):
 - Appalachian Trail, Jessica Ruit
 - Beacon & Cold Spring, Tim Scuccimarra & Joe DiMichele
 - Cornwall, Dotti Basini
 - Fort Montgomery & West Point, Joan Vorbach
 - Highland Walkway Over the Hudson and Rhinebeck, Andrew Schmidt
 - Hyde Park, Tom Nisonger
- Web Master Mike Green
- Randall Laird, providing our auditing since 2018
- Patty Wing, mailbox coordinator

- Helpers who help when needed: Tom Nisonger, Eddie Choma, Rita DeMaria, Joan Kimmel
- Folks that keep us on the straight and narrow path: Betty Green and Nancy Patrick
- Especially our walkers who come from near and far - without you, we wouldn't be doing this!

It was noted that the AVA will no longer be publishing the American Wanderer in hard copy format, although AVA Associate Members will be able to pay to receive it in such form if desired. It will also not contain some information that it currently does (like achievement award), but a yearbook of some kind will be published by the AVA instead.

Club member Joan Kimmel asked if the AVA "*Starting Point*" will still be published, and it was noted it will be.

Andrew Schmidt, Club Treasurer, gave his report.

Overall, we are in good shape, financially speaking. Here are the account balances as of the end of each fiscal year of 30 June and note we are at a high point as of the end of these past 5 years:

- 2019: \$ 776
- 2020: \$ 983
- 2021: \$ 1,000
- 2022: \$ 993
- 2023: \$ 1,407

Andrew noted we did have some nice income events, such as two Fort Montgomery buses over the past two years.

The following table shows the activity of our walks in the first and second quarters of the past two fiscal years:

Walk (1Q 2022 & 1Q 2023 Attendance:

Appalachian Trail	7	8
Beacon	23	31
Cold Spring	19	19
Cornwall	11	18
Fort Montgomery	50	48
Highland	36	53
Hyde Park	18	24
Rhinebeck	29	23
West Point	4	24

Totals: 197 248

Andrew discussed the AVA's annual "Big Give" that will be held in September. It is the annual single biggest fund raising event for the AVA. Last year we gave \$34.50. Andrew asked via a motion, and received via voice vote, allowance for the club to provide a \$50.00 donation to the AVA in this year's Big Give.

The topic of the Annual Boat Ride as reported on. In July, we initiated discussion with our Highland Falls Rotary Club contact for our participation in their annual boat ride in August. The word received was "*The conditions here at West Point have put the Superintendent's Ferry into service on a daily bases (sic) and we haven't received any word yet from the Skipper as to the availability of the vessel. An attempt is being sort (sic) to get a*

decision, will keep you posted....” So August is probably ‘out’, but will try for September, stay tuned.

Andrew reported on our club’s bi-annual “Private Organization” with US Army. For 2023-2025 re-certification, Andrew provided to the Army a current copy of the following documentation:

- Application
- Signed Officer Memorandum of Understanding
- Statement of a dissolution (position of remaining assets on breakup of the PO)
- Current Constitution and Bylaws
- List of Current Officers
- Minutes of last three Membership Meetings
- Financial Statement
- Audit Certification
- Copy of Tax Status Determination letter from the IRS
- Copy of last two years Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Returns (form 990N)
- Copy of liability insurance coverage
- Copy of written authorization to use “West Point” in your club’s name established between our club and the USMA Licensing Director

Andrew noted that we need a new “auditor” for the next re-certification to the Army in early 2025. The audit will need to be done for the fiscal years that ended in this past July of 2023, as well as next July of 2024.

Andrew noted that we received some income as a member of the Zoom class action lawsuit settlement payment. This was for “*In re: Zoom Video Communications, Inc. Privacy Litigation*, Case No. 3:20-cv-02155-LB”)” Our settlement of \$32.32 was received

on 28 June 2023.

Andrew reported that he asked for and designed with our Web Master Mike Green to add a “MailChimp email audience sign up form” on our website which was added in August. We had found out the need for this was apparent since if one opts-out of the audience form, the individual (not the club treasurer) needs to manually re-add themselves to the mailing list. opted-out.

Andrew provided additional information concerning the remainder club activities for 2023 and 2024 Calendar – check the club website for the most up to date information.

Club member Betty Green offered additional information of interest to the members:

- Fall foliage walk 5-8 October will be held in State College, PA. The last day of discount registration is 14 August.
- The AVA Atlantic Region is holding a regional convention in Dover, Delaware over 4-7 April 2024.
- A new AVA national Special Program “A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths” will debut in 2024. The program manager happens to be Betty Green.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Schmidt, Club Secretary