

Volkssport Club at West Point 2019 Annual Club Meeting Minutes

Held at Double O's Restaurant, Wappingers Falls, NY on Sunday,
12 January 2020

The 2019 Volkssport Club at West Point annual club business meeting was held in conjunction with the annual December Holiday Party at Double O's restaurant in Wappingers Falls, NY. Originally scheduled for Sunday, 1 December 2019, the annual meeting date was rescheduled to Sunday, 12 January 2020 due to a snow storm on the original December 2019 date.

Club President Carol Schmidt presided. Other elected officers in attendance were:

- Club Secretary (and West Point Year Round Event (YRE) and Fort Montgomery Seasonal Walks Point of Contact (POC) Joan Vorbach
- National American Volkssport Association (AVA) Northeast Region Deputy Director (and club treasurer and Walkway Over the Hudson and Rhinebeck YREs POC) Andrew Schmidt

Also in attendance were club officials:

- Club Trail Master (and Beacon and Cold Spring YRE's POC) Tom Scuccimarra

Other notables in attendance were:

- AVA Atlantic Region Director (and club webmaster), Michael Green
- Cornwall-On-Hudson Dorothy Basini
- Former club officer (and New Paltz and Hyde Park POC) Joan Kimmel
- Former AVA Northeast Region (and former club officer) Director Betty Green
- Former club officer Tom Nisonger

President Carol welcomed the 20 people in attendance, especially three new folks who joined club member Jennifer Riedy, and turned the meeting over to Treasurer Andrew.

The first order of business was election of 2020 club officers. Notice was provided in November via our weekly newsletter for any nominations to run for any of the four officer positions. No nominations from the field were received. All four incumbents therefore were willing to serve in 2020 again, with the switching of the roles of Secretary and President. Members voted for the following 2020 officers:

- President - Joan Vorbach
- Vice President - Jessica Ruit
- Secretary - - Carol Schmidt
- Treasurer - Andrew Schmidt

The club Treasurer's Report was then presented.

- At the end of 2019, the club's balance stood at \$836.88. Andrew noted this was somewhat lower than at the end of 2018 which was \$890.59. Expenses will have to be watched closely this year.
- Andrew then provided the club activity numbers and income for the last year (2019) showing a tremendous increase over the previous year (2018). He mentioned that these current numbers cannot be considered for any type of planning purposes due to the unique fact that the National AVA Convention was held in nearby Albany in June, and many of those walkers came down to our area pre- and post-convention. For example, total 3Q 2019 club event income was \$429, whereas the year before was only \$180. Walker totals for the past year were 253 credit walkers, whereas the previous year 145. Again, no year-to-year comparisons can be made.
- Andrew noted the officers had voted to drop the Southampton and Highland Falls YREs for 2020.
- A discussion on December annual club donations was held. Andrew noted that for 2019, the total AVA donations provided was \$37.46 (\$24.50 for earmarked donations¹ and a \$12.96 NYS Wine bottle for Convention Silent Auction). For the proposed 2019 annual December club donations, member Dorothy Basini moved that we donate to \$25. To NY State's Natural Heritage Trust for providing support for both our Walkway Over the Hudson and Fort Montgomery Seasonal this year (and nothing else) due to the lower bank balance. The club voted in support of the motion.

Other items of business were discussed.

- AVA Awards from the Albany Convention were reviewed.

Earlier in 2019, and announced in the weekly newsletter, the club awarded the

¹ Donations received from walkers in lieu of walking fees are split 50/50 to the club and the AVA as per club policy.

following AVA “*Meritorious*” awards to 10 club members, and their names were duly noted in the annual AVA Award Booklet available at the Albany 2019 Convention:

- Betty Green
- Dorothy Basini
- Farrell Patrick
- Joan Kimmel
- Joan Vorbach
- Mike Green
- Nancy Patrick
- Peggy Goetz
- Thomas Nisonger
- Thomas Scuccimarra

Additionally, the AVA Northeast Region awarded the following six club members residing in the AVA Northeast Region the AVA “*Commendable Service*” award for being our event Point-Of-Contacts:

- Dorothy Basini (for Cornwall-On-Hudson)
- Joan Kimmel (for Hyde Park and New Paltz)
- Jessica Ruit (for NY State wide Adirondack Trail)
- Andrew Schmidt (for Rhinebeck and Walkway Over the Hudson)
- Tom Scuccimarra (for Cold Spring and Beacon)
- Joan Vorbach (for West Point and Fort Montgomery Seasonal)

Andrew then presented on behalf of the club member Patty Wing with an AVA “*Commendable Service*” award (signed by the current AVA Northeast Region Director Chris Mellon). Her role in being the West Point contact person for our correspondence via the PO Box is exemplary.

- Andrew passed a note card received in the US mail from Betty Green thanking the club for the expression of sympathy we provided to Mike Green on the passing of his mother in spring of 2019.
- Betty Green mentioned the new Ashokan Reservoir Bike trail (<https://www.nynjtc.org/news/stewards-ready-ashokan-rail-trail-opening>) which could be used as a bike event, noting “the Ashokan Reservoir is beautiful.” None of the members present, however, would be willing to be the POC of the event, however. Mike Green mentioned it could be sanctioned as a “Per Participant Sanction Fee” (PPSF) as to lower our annual cost of the sanctioning the event. The club decided that perhaps we’ll revisit this idea at a later date to find a POC if the club decides we would provide the bike event. (If any reader wishes to volunteer as the POC, please do!)

- The annual meeting to discuss our club's walking calendar for 2020 was planned. Secretary Joan Vorbach proposed a late lunch (1 PM) meeting in Newburgh at Alexis Diner on Monday, 3 February 2020. Members were urged to let Andrew know by return email if they wished to attend.

With no further business, attendees partook of a festive holiday luncheon, full of mirth and friendship.

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