

Volkssport Club at West Point Club Meeting, Tuesday 9 June 2020

A meeting of the Volkssport Club at West Point was held online via Zoom on Tuesday evening, 9 June 2020 at 8:00 PM. Announcement of the meeting was made in multiple club newsletters and Facebook several weeks prior to the meeting. 11 people attended.

Club President Joan Vorbach presided. Other elected officers/former club officials/American Volkssport Association (AVA) officials in attendance were:

- Club Treasurer and AVA Northeast Region Deputy Director Andrew Schmidt
- Club Secretary Carol Schmidt
- Former club officers Tom Nisonger, Farrell, and Nancy Patrick
- AVA Atlantic Region Director (and club webmaster), Michael Green
- Cornwall-On-Hudson YRE Point of Contact Dorothy Basini
- Former AVA Northeast Region (and former club officer) Director Betty Green

Club President Joan welcomed the attendees. Her report consisted of the following items:

- The scheduled group walk of Fort Montgomery scheduled for Saturday 13 June was cancelled. The NY State Historic Site building and grounds, where our walk box is located, is still closed due to COVID-19 issues. Mike Green asked us to ensure that the status had been updated on the AVA website which he did, and Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt verified and added wording to indicate same on the AVA site. Additionally, our Facebook page has been updated as well.
- Joan will investigate, once the site is open, having our annual party on their deck sometime in July or August.
- Joan reminded folks about the upcoming AVA Biannual Convention to be held in Madison, WI. She reviewed the pre- and post-walk schedule as well. (details can be found on: <http://ava.org/2021-convention/> .)
- Joan reiterated our club's support of the AVA "Big Give" program, urging members to contribute by 10 September. Their goal is \$80,000. Now it is

at approximately \$49,966. Any amount is appreciated. (Details can be found on: <https://ava.charityproud.org/Donate/?cid=4605>)

Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt gave his report:

- The club' finances have, obviously, been affected by the COVID-19 situation is as we have not had that many walkers participating in events. On the other hand, our expenses to some degree have also been less. The current club balance stands, as of the end of the last full month of May 2020 at \$947.84, vs. a year earlier as \$710.35, a welcomed \$237.49 increase.

Partially responsible for this was that our membership has increased somewhat year over year, and we were up \$35. in membership income year to date as opposed to 2019.

- The AVA sanctioning window has opened for 2021. Since our walk numbers for 2020 are not reliable for comparisons over 2019 due to COVID-19, Andrew suggested that we simply re-sanction all ten existing 2020 YREs that had been cut down somewhat (no more Highland Falls, no more Southampton) in 2020 anyway.
- Andrew urged club members to consider volunteering on a national AVA Committee such as club development or IT Committee if they are so inclined to do so.
- Andrew reviewed the 2020 Club Calendar as it now stands. These major changes were highlighted:
 - The 13 June Fort Montgomery Walk has been cancelled, with in July or August, we may have our annual club picnic at Fort Montgomery
 - The Hudson River Valley Ramble, sponsored by NY State, for all organizations has been cancelled this September due to COVID-19. So on the date we were to do Cold Spring (26 September), we have substituted Cornwall YRE instead since that YRE had been previously cancelled earlier in the year on 30 May.
 - The Southampton Traditional Event in October has been canceled due to lack of club support. Andrew will investigate perhaps doing this as a joint event with other clubs in 2021.

The meeting closed at 08:35 PM. Respectively submitted by Carol Schmidt, Club Secretary.