



Volkssport Club at West Point

2022 October Fall Club Meeting Minutes

On Thursday, 6 October 2022, the Volkssport Club at West Point (VCWP, or “The Club”) held its semi-annual (Fall 2022) business meeting. As usual, this was held across two online Zoom meetings with an intermission.

The majority interest in this meeting is to provide a status update of 2022 as well as some planning info for the 2023 year coming up. Notices of invitations to all current club members and general friends were announced in multiple issues of the club newsletter ***STEPPING OUT!***

Club President Joan Vorbach presided and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Elected officers were in attendance along with other members:

- Joan Vorbach, Club President
- Carol Schmidt, Club Secretary
- Andrew Schmidt, Club Treasurer
- Michael Green, Club Webmaster & former American Volkssport Association (AVA) Atlantic Region Director
- Tom Nisonger, Point of Contact (POC) Hyde Park YRE
- Betty Green, former (AVA) Northeast Region Director
- Nancy Patrick, former club President
- Farrell Patrick, former club Officer

Joan Vorbach provided her President's report:

- Joan thanked many of the club members for their assistance this year:
 - 6 Aug 2022, for the Club Picnic as part of our Fort Montgomery Seasonal Club walk; thanks to Rita DeMaria for the watermelon.
 - 20 July 2022, for the West Point Community Fair; Thanks to Joan Kimmel and Andrew Schmidt for staffing the table.
 - Thanks to Patty Wing for continuing to perform frequent mail runs at West Point Post Office for the club mail in 2022.
 - Thanks to those who supported our walk with the Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club in Rhinebeck this past summer; we had 11 walkers in total, 4 came from the Connecticut club.

- Joan introduced some 2023 planning items:
 - A joint club walk with Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club for the 3rd year is being thought of; Carol West of the CVVC and our Andrew are discussing, possibly Thompson (tri-state border town) & Putnam Greenway.
 - A Northeast Region 2023 Weekend event is being considered, perhaps in the fall
 - Andrew in discussion with Wayne Knapp, the AVA Northeast Region Director (NERD).

- Possibly a walk with the Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club (CVVC) in conjunction with the Poughkeepsie's Germania Club (an AVA club member) during their September Oktoberfest.
- Joan discussed the remaining 2023 Schedule:
 - **2022:**
 - 9 OCT, SUN - Fort Montgomery Seasonal Group Walk
 - 6 OCT, THUR - 2022 VCWP Semi-Annual (Fall) Meeting
 - 13 OCT, THUR – WAI at Fort Montgomery
 - 22 OCT, SAT - Hyde Park YRE Group Walk
 - 6 NOV, SUN - Highland/Walkway Over the Hudson YRE Group Walk
 - 19 NOV, SAT - Cornwall YRE Group Walk
 - 3 DEC, SAT - New York City YRE Group Walk
 - **2023:**
 - 8 JAN, SUN - Annual Holiday Party in 2023 to close out 2022
 - SEP – Possible joint club event with CVVC and Poughkeepsie Germania

Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt provided some financial details:

- Membership history (dues income for the fiscal year ending 6/30):
 - 2018: \$410
 - 2019: \$305
 - 2020: \$350
 - 2021: \$375
 - **2022: \$285**

- Walking Fees:
 - 2018: \$ 576
 - 2019: \$ 546 (some Albany AVA conventioners)

- 2020: \$ 786 (many Albany AVA conventioners, a Walking Adventures International (WAI) bus)
 - 2021: \$ 489
 - **2022: \$ 456 (2 WAI buses)**

- Treasury Balance:
 - 2018: \$1,071.99
 - 2019: \$ 776.38
 - 2020: \$ 983.43
 - 2021: \$1,000.00
 - **2022: \$ 992.70**

- Some items to note:
 - The decrease in membership dues (\$285) over the preceding years as well as the Treasury Balance (\$993.70), although the balance was not as bad as was expected earlier in the year compared to previous years. To note later in the month, another other WAI bus load of walkers will be attending the Fort Montgomery Seasonal as well.
 - VCWP donated to the AVA \$34.50 during their “Big Give” charitable campaign, but after consultation with club President Joan explaining that this was going to be higher (\$50 from last year), it is noted that we’re watching our expenses.

- Outside of financials, the following other items of club interest were noted:
 - Farrell Patrick suggested that we contact the West Point Association of Graduates for some additional PR potential for their “Academy”.
 - Our Bi-annual US Army Private Organization Accreditation is due next spring.
 - Randall Laird has agreed to audit our books for fiscal year 2022 that ended 30 June again; this is a yearly requirement from the US Army to continue of “Private Organization” accreditation.
 - The IRS Form 990N (less than \$25,000 in annual gross receipt), AVA membership form (45 members), and AVA Financial Form due 11/15 was done in August; any member wishing to see any of these documents

are welcome to contact Andrew at vcwpava@gmail.com.

- Empire State Trail Sanctioning
 - Was going to be considered in 2023, will wait until at least 2024 due to fiscal prudence in having to sanction (and pay for) the state-wide event.
- 2023 Club Calendar Scheduling meeting will be held:
 - Either Thursday 27 October or 3 November.
 - Joan Kimmel will provide her usual dates to avoid.
- Library Flyers for general info on the club:
 - Some have been placed in libraries, others to do.
- Need a PR volunteer for 2023
 - This person would contact (via email) the local newspapers, radio stations, etc. for our events;
any takers?
- PO Box Change from 30 to 122 occurred
 - We need to complete items (NY State, some box contents (envelopes, directions, etc.)).
- 2023 Events Information was discussed:

- AVA Special Events for 2023:
 - Par For The Course :
 - Cold Spring
 - Highland/Walkway Over the Hudson and Rail Trails
 - Rhinebeck
 - West Point
 - Lighthouses II: (none)
 - Washington–Rochambeau National Historic Trail:
 - Fort Montgomery (AVA national official Tim Miner approved for qualification in correspondence with Andrew)

- Many of our events changed and/or moved to OSB in 2023; an online seminar should be considered for January (or perhaps a pointer to an online video that the AVA already has?) for our member’s education. Here are the 9 events for 2022 along with the Point of Contact (POC)
 - Appalachian Trail (OSB only); Jessica Ruit
 - Beacon (OSB only starting in 2023); Tom Scuccimarra
 - Cold Spring (OSB only starting in 2023); Tom Scuccimarra
 - Cornwall (OSB only starting in 2023); Dotti Basini
 - Fort Montgomery (seasonal, 5/1-10/31); Joan Vorbach

- Highland/Walkway Over the Hudson and Rail Trails (note the name change, we will extend this walk to the West if a walker wishes to go the other direction away from the Walkway Over the Hudson towards Tony Williams Park in the Town of Llyod); Andrew Schmidt
- Hyde Park (OSB only starting in 2023); Tom Nisonger
- Rhinebeck (no change); Andrew Schmidt
- West Point (OSB only starting in 2023); Joan Vorbach

The second of the two Zoom meetings was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes reviewed by Club Secretary Carol Schmidt and submitted for posting to our Website November 2022.

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