

Volkssport Club at West Point

2021 Second Half Club Meeting

The second half of 2021 meeting of the Volkssport Club at West Point was held online via Zoom on Thursday, 29 July 2021 at 8:00 EDT PM.

Announcement of the meeting was made in multiple club newsletters prior to the meeting. Seven people attended. Club President Joan Vorbach presided.

Those in attendance were:

- Club President Joan Vorbach
- Club Secretary Carol Schmidt
- Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt
- Club Webmaster Michael Green
- Club Members Tom Nisonger, Betty Green, and Carol Hollar

Club President Joan Vorbach welcomed the seven attending members and gave a President's update:

- She welcomed the attendees, indicating we only had 40 minutes for the meeting due to Zoom meeting restrictions. The minutes of this meeting will be posted to the club's website under the "CLUB NEWS" category.
- She reminded attendees of the Club Walk and Annual Picnic on Saturday, 7 August. The Fort Montgomery Walk will be at the usual time of 9:30 AM, and the picnic will be on tables in the back of the NY State Fort Montgomery History Park building at noon. As usual, participants bring their own lunch and the club supplies the watermelon.
- Joan thanked club member Joe DiMichele for his support at the West Point Community air on Wednesday, 21 July. He staffed the table and handed out flyers to the attendees to promote the club at the annual open house for new families at West Point as we do yearly. As a footnote, Joan also reminded people that are interested in obtaining the 2021 VCWP Achievement Pin that they must do the Fort Montgomery Seasonal walk before the State Museum building holding our walkbox closes, roughly 24 October 2021.
- Joan reminded participants that the elections of new officers for 2022 will coming up in November.

Club member Tom Nisonger, the club's official delegate to the 2021 American Volkssport Association (AVA) Biennial Convention in Madison, Wisconsin in late June reported on various items of interest to our members:

- There were about 161 clubs represented, about 370 individual attendees.
- In the Necrology (walkers who have passed in the previous two years) Convention listing, former club member Jane Watts was remembered.
- One potential AVA by-laws change which proposed the extension of the terms of both the AVA Regional and Deputy Regional Director from two to four years was withdrawn before it reached the floor; as such, there were no votes requiring use of the provided clickers.
- The IVV President attended the meeting.
- Our club Webmaster, and former AVA Atlantic Region Director Mike Green, was one of four people to be awarded the AVA President's Award for his service to the national organization.
- Our club donated a NY State scented candle (approximately \$20) to the AVA Silent Auction.
- There will be no 2023 AVA Convention in lieu of both the 2023 IVV Olympiad and IML Walk that summer in San Antonio.
- Concluding, Tom mentioned he loved his time re-visiting the Grumpy Troll in Mount Horeb, an award winning brewpub.

Club Treasurer Andrew Schmidt provided his Treasurer's Report:

- The current club balance is \$933.16. One year ago, we were at \$952.63. This is viewed as acceptable (even not so bad) given the pandemic year. We watched our expenses, cut out under performing YREs such as New Paltz and Southampton, and so-on.
- It is difficult to provide meaningful comparisons of activity given the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic year, as well as many people attending our 2019 walks due to the AVA Convention in nearby Albany that year. That being said, here are the figures of paid walkers for the rolling four quarters noted:
 - Ending 30 June 2018 (3Q 2017-2Q 2018) – 125
 - Ending 30 June 2019 (3Q 2018-2Q 2019) – 98
 - Ending 30 June 2020 (3Q 2019-2Q 2020) – 168 (AVA convention inflation)
 - Ending 30 June 2021 (3Q 2020-2Q 2021) – 84 (COVID-19 deflation)
- Club Member Betty Green suggested we touch base with the Albany AVA Club (Empire State Capital Volkssporters, ESCV) and see how ESCV does so well in recruiting members for the walks.
- Andrew thanked club Secretary (and his wife) Carol Schmidt for her agenda and critique review prior to the meeting
- Andrew reminded the members that our club member Patty Wing, had received an *AVA COMMENDABLE SERVICE* award from the club from 2020. Patty's name was listed in the AWARDS booklet

(https://cb.ava.org/Convention_History/2021/Awards_Book.pdf).

- Andrew thanked the club members that were listed as AVA BIG GIVE donation providers and hopes that club members will support the 2022 Big Give program next year. They are:
 - Betty and Mike Green
 - Andrew and Carol Schmidt
 - Carol Hollar
 - Tom Nisonger
 - Nancy Patrick
 - Maureen Penta
 - Joan Vorbach
- Andrew informed attendees that the 2022 walk sanctioning window opens shortly in early August. We will re-sanction all nine of our 2021 walks for 2022 if our club has Points of Contact for all the walks. Those are:
 - Appalachian Trail
 - Beacon
 - Cold Spring
 - Cornwall
 - Fort Montgomery
 - Highland/Walkway Over the Hudson
 - Hyde Park
 - Rhinebeck
 - West Point
- There are two new AVA Special Programs for 2022 that we will research and add to our walks if applicable. They are *RAILS TO TRAILS* and *TOWN/CITY HALLS*). Many of our walks qualify for the Town/City Special Program, and our Walkway Over the Hudson qualifies for the Rails-to-Trails walk.
- The proposed 2022 sanctioning of the recently established Empire State Trail (similar to our club's state-wide sanctioning of the Appalachian Trail) that was planned will be postponed until at least 2023 because of economic concerns.
- Our US Department of the Army Private Organization (PO) Certification, which we are required to perform every other year by providing process and financial information (including the last two years of financial audits and meeting minutes) to the Army, was successfully completed this Spring and we are 'good' as a PO through 4/15/2023. This allows us to use the copyrighted/protected term 'West Point' in our club's name.
- Work on our 2022 Calendar has begun; we will convene a meeting of interested parties in November to develop our schedule.
- *Walking Adventures International* has a bus coming in both September and October to walk our Fort Montgomery Seasonal Walk as part of their Appalachian Trail bus tour. Andrew will meet the bus on Friday, 3 September at Bear Mountain State Park, but is unable to do so on their second outing on Thursday 14 October. **Can anyone assist in meeting and greeting the walkers then?**

- Finally, Andrew reiterated that the club needs help in its operation, for such things as Element 3 Health group liaison, Sanctioning, Newsletter, etc. Only a few people do all the work for the club, and this needs to change.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Schmidt, Secretary
Andrew Schmidt, Treasurer

18 August 2021