

## WNYMBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 3/28/25

**Call to meeting:** President called meeting to order at 6:35 PM

1. Remembering Jerrine Neff
  - a. The club observed a moment of silence in Jerrine's memory
2. Who is WNYMBA
  - a. Hint . . . it's each and every one of us
  - b. We have approximately 320 members, down from a high of 379
  - c. 68% of our members are from Erie, 12% Catt, 10% Chq, and 7% Niagara
  - d. We work with EC parks, NYS DEC, NYS Parks, and local bike shops
3. Mission Update for General Membership Approval

"The Western New York Mountain Bicycling Association (WNYMBA) is a non-profit association whose mission is to promote healthy lifestyles by designing, building, and preserving sustainable shared-use trails in our region's County Parks, State Parks, and State Forests. Through advocacy, stewardship, and education, we encourage responsible trail use and access to outdoor recreation for mountain bikers and other trail users."

Moved: TJ Zydel

Approved: All in favor

4. The COG
  - a. Communication
  - b. Opportunities
  - c. Growth
    - i. Our membership is aging
    - ii. We need to target younger members
5. Trail Maintenance:
  - a. We need to empower the membership to be a steward of their own backyard
  - b. We held an online meeting focused on our trails, gathered a lot of data
    - i. 72.5% of the participants were WNYMBA members, 27.5% were not
    - ii. We had a mix of Trail Stewards, people interested in being trail crew members, and people who wanted to participate in the meeting to learn what is going on
    - iii. Trail Stewards skewed towards Chautauqua county
    - iv. When asked what trails people like to ride, Sprague and Darien received the most votes
    - v. This highlights an issue we need to address: leadership in Erie County
    - vi. When asked what people want to do, many people indicated they are interested in getting out and doing work outside of full trail days

## 6. Upcoming Trail Days:

- Eville 4/19
- Golden Hill 4/26
- Women's Trail Day at Darien Lakes State Park 4/27
- Long Point, 5/3 (Love my Parks Day)
- Whalen Memorial State Forest, 5/31 and 6/1
- Harris Hill State Forest, 6/7 (National Trails Day)
- Note: there is a proposal to build the Culver Connector at Sprague Brook, TJ is working to set up a meeting with the County to get approval
- Note: there is a proposal to build a Flow/DH run at McCarty State Forest
- Note: Chainsaw certification: 5/13 8am - 4:30pm in Chq. \$150, working to get a grant to cover. If interested reach out to Jake Bodway

## 7. Upcoming Camping / Events:

- Join CHQ event 3/29, noon to 4:00
- WNYMBA Swap, Resurgence Brewing 4/13, noon to 4:00
- International Women's MTB Day 5/3
- Raccoon Rally, Allegany State Park, 6/15
  - We will have a WNYMBA table, see TJ if you're interested in volunteering
- Ride CHQ trails day 6/21
- WNYMBA Rips the Rocks 6/27-29
- West Virginia Big Bear Bike Bash 7/18 - 7/20
- Rooted 7/25 - 27
- Holimont MTB Festival Weekend 8/8 - 8/10
- Jake's Rocks Trail Fest 9/19-20
- Greg Culver Memorial: Date TBD, presenting proposed trail at upcoming meeting with Erie County

## 8. Financial Report

- a. Recent expenses primarily related to snowdog, ATV repairs
- b. Balance around \$10K
- c. Have sold \$700+ in merch so far this year

## 9. Grant Writing

- a. Need to have approval first, then you can seek funds
- b. Jake will host an online meeting to show how to write a grant, will show examples of two grants he has worked on
- c. Due to Jake's employment with Chq, he is unable to write grants for WNYMBA
- d. Our activities on social media are important; funders see what we say on our own page and on other pages

## 10. Questions/Discussion

- a. Greg Snow offered his place for an upcoming ride and club meeting
- b. Can you auto renew your membership on the website?
  - i. Yes, there is a button you can click on for auto renew
- c. Greg Culver memorial
  - i. TJ is working to get a meeting with Kate to present our trail proposal. It's a connector that will keep us off of the gravel road riding up to the cross country warming hut.
  - ii. Paul added that we had been looking to do something at the end of May, but without approval for the trail it's not a good fit. Additionally, Campus was not able to make the end of May date work, and given their close relationship with Greg we felt it was important to have them there.
- d. Jake noted that he was at a Parks and Trails event today and the Administrator asked him why WNYMBA isn't building a trail between Sprague Brook and Kissing Bridge. TJ noted that is on the agenda for discussion with Kate and Erie County
- e. Jake noted that we do not have any leadership at Sprague and Hunters right now. We need someone to step up and take ownership to get these great ideas going. Jerry has been a huge rock for Sprague, but he is out of town in the winter months.
- f. How many snowdogs does WNYMBA own
  - i. Four
- g. TJ noted that we need to be planning ahead. Now is the time to be thinking about and setting into motion the things we're going to do in the next year and more
- h. A member noted that she has a school EVS club, did a ride at Sprague and would like to do it again. Having trouble getting bikes. Reached out to NorthStar but they don't have a fleet they can rent. There is a rental fleet from Loud in Ellicottville. Also could think about the club or IMBA subsidizing a fleet. Could also look at what comes in at the swap and see if there are any options. Colden elementary has a bike fleet, but they are for elementary school children
- i. The state is taking over Blumont, a ski area between Springville and Arcade. They are looking for opportunities for hiking and biking and trails. Jon Sundquist is keyed into this.
- j. WNYMBA is not liable for a \$5400 expenditure for trail school. The Board worked this out with IMBA and NAMBA, no ill effects

**Adjourn Meeting:** The President adjourned the meeting at 7:27