

## **WNYMBA Summer 2025 Meeting Agenda**

Sunday, July 20, 2025

TJ called the meeting to order at 09:28

- Welcome to Summer
  - TJ indicated we will have meetings every other month going forward
  - TJ will share his ppt via email
- Membership Numbers
  - Membership has slowly been getting smaller
  - Folks should be getting emails when their membership is up for renewal
- Review of Mission Statement and who are
  - Who is WNYMBA? WNYMBA is all of us
  - We need all members to communicate, help out
  - We partner with Erie Co Parks, NYS DEC, NYS Parks, and our local bike shops
- Bylaws vote for changing operating calendar year to start January 1st:
  - Elections in November
  - Changeover period through December for new Executive Board and Advisors
  - New team ready to hit the ground running on January 1
  - VOTE: Moved by TJ to accept the change to the operating calendar noted above: majority voted yes, no nos, motion approved
- COG - Review of goals for the year
  - Communication
  - Opportunities
  - Growth
- Cabin Fever, Wet Spring, Online Drama
  - Negative chatter online
  - So much rain this year, some of our wet trail systems are still wet in July
  - It has been a challenging year, which tends to foster negativity
  - TJ asked the members to bring things to the Board or communicate internally before engaging in debates with naysayers online
  - Please think before you type
  - Riding is the best therapy for cabin fever!
- What has happened since the last meeting?
  - We applied for and received our own 501c3; due to upcoming legal changes we were no longer able to be a subordinate member of IMBA

- This does not change anything in terms of our relationship with IMBA, membership management, benefits, etc. It simply means that we have our own 501c3 tax ID number
- Anticipate this will be helpful in grant writing - has been confusing in the past that funders thought we were IMBA
- We had a chainsaw certification program
  - Helpful because our partners are more likely to let us assist with removing trees via chainsaw when our members have this certification, e.g. Erie County will let our members use chainsaws in the parks as long as the certificate is on file
  - There is an upcoming class in August
  - Please note that you need to bring your own things to the class - eye protection, chaps, saw, other items. Please check before you sign up
- Jake delivered an online grant writing seminar
  - Key point: you can't just write a grant - you have to have an approved project, signed off by the relevant land manager
  - In many cases you will need to complete the SEQR process (State Parks) or Unit Management Plans (DEC?)
  - **ACTION ITEM: Nik will share the name of the new club member who said they have grant writing experience with TJ**
- We ordered new merch!
  - Socks: cost \$7 something, will sell for \$10 (for members) and \$15 (non-members)
  - Head wraps
  - Both will be for sale at Rooted and at all meetings and events going forward
  - Also considering giving away merch at the end of the season as reward for volunteer efforts: something to come for next year. Will require a way to track minutes/hours of work
- Partnership with Kissing Bridge
  - New owner, Rhett
  - Kurt who previously assisted at Holimoint is now helping out at KB
  - Using a tractor for now for the lift service
  - Future goal: cross 240 from Sprague Brook to the R2T to connect to the KB trails
  - In discussions regarding maps
- We've had some group rides!
- Renewed VSA with DEC
- Repaired weed trimmer for CHQ
- Swap Review:
  - Was on 4/13 at Resurgence Brewing
  - Financial results: \$1457 profit, was less than last year
  - Thoughts for next year

- Other entities (at least 3) are doing swaps which dilutes the effort
  - The Love and Sprockets swap “hopscoched” our swap, they rented a larger space and got a sponsor to cover the rental fees
  - Option: partner with Love & Sprockets and see how we can monetize that?
  - **ACTION ITEM: The Board will discuss and bring a proposal to an upcoming general membership meeting**
- Trail Work / Regional Updates
  - TJ noted that we have a lot of miles to cover
  - One perception: people have varying ideas of what a trail should look like
  - Need to find a common ground of what can and should be done
  - Trail Stewards: please let the Board know who is helping out so that we can recognize them
  - Jake noted that not every trail conditions page takes the time to post the positive stuff: tree removed, leaves blown, etc.
  - Jon indicated that there is a Catt group chat that shares that info, need to get it onto our social media platforms
  - **ACTION ITEM: if you have info to share, please send to Nik if you’re not going to do it yourself**
  - Proposed: share 2025 year in review summary - projects, trail days, grants received, membership info, etc.
  - Proposed: do a summer donation/membership drive and be clear about “this is what your \$25 pays for”
  - Mike shared how Kingdom Trails shares stats, how much trail work they do, pictures of the people who do the work
  - Had a pre-season trail Zoom meeting
    - 70/30% mix of WNYMBA members and non-members
    - We have more people who want to help, very few people who want to lead a project
  - We had some trail days cancelled this spring due to the rain
  - TJ noted that we have historically built the kind of trails that the land managers would approve, which the vast majority of the time means shared use trails: MTB, hiking, equestrian
  - Multiple people noted that the people who show up will build the type of trails they like to ride
  - Cattaraugus County
    - Allegany State Park
      - The Park is supposed to be managing blow-downs, but staff cover many parks
      - Nettles are a major issue on Stone Tower Trail  
ADVISORY: if you weed wack nettles or poison ivy, please clean off the weed wacker so we don’t spread them

- Golden Hill
  - McCarty State Forest
    - Proposal for some downhill runs off of Porcupine is with the State for the approval process
- Chautauqua County
  - Harris Hill Extension
  - Long Point State Park
  - Whalen State Forest
- Erie County
  - Hunter's Creek
  - Sprague Brook
    - Culver Connector: Erie County agreed to use their equipment for the bench cutting for the first section of the trail!
    - Targeting September for the trail work
    - We are coordinating with Jen & Piper, Campus, 42N, Colden Country Inn
- Genesee County
  - Darien Lakes State Park
    - The trail that will connect the end of Oz over to Shotgun Ridge was approved in 2016, we have an approved SEQR
    - Mike, Jen, Paul, and Sue flagged about 0.85 mi of the connector early spring
    - The State's wetlands maps changed, and as we were about to start working on the trail, the Parks indicated we needed to regroup before we could start building
    - Paul, Jerry, and Sue walked the flagged trail with the new Park Manager, Dori, the State Environmentalist, Aaron, and some staff members on July 9
    - Per request from the Parks leadership, Sue is finalizing a summary of the work with pictures of the areas where we will build bridges or use rock armoring to protect areas with flowing water. Will send this week
    - In addition to what is in the approved SEQR report, we identified a pines area that could add .75 mi of trail or so; working to start the approval process with the Parks people
    - For future discussion: shed at DLSP
- Treasury Report - Money Details
  - At our Spring meeting, had just under \$10K in our bank account
  - Now sitting around \$13K
  - Funds used for trail days, events: \$1k since spring
  - \$900 trail tools
  - \$1200 for socks and headbands
  - Operational expenses: \$500

- Upcoming Summer, Fall Events
  - Rooted July 24 - 27 at Loud Performance
    - Call for volunteers
    - Merch Tent: Rachel, Sue, Sara, Nik, Nancy, Christie
    - Breakfast Sat & Sun: need to arrive at 5:30ish
      - Paul, Jerry, TJ, Jim Kellman
    - TJ asked for approval for \$2000 for food rations, Concetta seconded, approved by the membership
    - **ACTION ITEM: TJ will bring a tip jar for breakfast**
    - Rooted traditionally makes a donation to WNYMBA after the event
  - Holimont MTB Festival August 8
    - **ACTION ITEM: TJ to connect with Holimont to see if he can get more information**
    - Suggestion: WNYMBA should consider separating ourselves from the Holimont event for 2026
    - Other point of view: if we want to make the downhill community feel comfortable joining WNYMBA, the Holimont weekend is something we should support
  - Jake's Rocks Trail Fest Sept 19-20
    - **ACTION ITEM: Sue and Nik to coordinate for a WNYMBA dinner, way to publish group rides before we all lose cell service**
  - Roots, Rocks, & Ridges Sept 27
  - Other events?
- Fall Trail Projects
  - Sprague Brook: Culver Connector
  - Darien Lakes State Park: Continue the loop
- New Trail Maps, possible rename with Regions/County
  - Paul and Jon are working on updates
  - Historically maps have had a good profit margin
  - Sue and Nik found that people would make a higher contribution than the \$5 asking price when we told people that the maps raised funds for WNYMBA to buy materials needed to support trail building and maintenance
- Methods to attract membership - Survey, are we asking the right questions?
  - TJ targeting getting the survey out in August
  - General discussion regarding the importance of getting youth involved in MTB
  - Thom suggested working with the local bike shops to get them involved in WNYMBA
    - Past program: Nice bike, where are you going to ride it?
    - **ACTION ITEM: Paul will design bike hang tags, coordinate with TJ to partner with the bike shops**

- Donations:
  - Gail & Ed Hutton Foundation Grant: \$300
  
- Adjourn Meeting
  - TJ moved to adjourn the meeting, Sara seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:09