

WNYMBA Board Meeting

August 19, 2025

Invited: TJ Zydel, Paul Marko, Sue Watkins, Nik Barnum, Travis Widger, Mike Moscato, Kristian Rieber, Jerry Barbour, Jacob Bodway, Jennifer Wolfe

In attendance: Paul Marko, Sue Watkins, TJ Zydel, Jake Bodway, Mike Moscato, Nik Barnum, Jennifer Wolfe, Travis Widger, Jerry Barbour, Kristian Reiber

TJ called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Votes:

- All members present accepted Christie Milanowski's resignation as Treasurer

Action Items:

| What | Who | When |
|--|------------|------|
| Go to the bank and have Christie removed from the account | TJ | 8/29 |
| Look at our Venmo and PayPal accounts; are there options to improve our processes with updated offerings | TJ & Nik | 9/30 |
| Ask around to see if anyone is interested in taking the Golden Hill Trail Steward vacancy | Travis | 9/15 |
| Order the half price replacement handle for the CATT weed trimmer | TJ | 8/22 |
| Contact Dori at Darien - we do not have a VSA or MOU but are open to creating one | Sue | 8/29 |
| Scope out the work the EC Parks Staff did on the Culver Connector and provide an update, including pictures, to the WNYMBA Board | Paul | 8/20 |
| Connect with Dan Schafer to see if we can get any movement on the McCarty State Forest trail proposal | TJ | 8/29 |
| Look through files and find a sample MOU that we can use as a starting point with DLSP | TJ | 9/15 |
| Publish an event for the Culver Connector trail day | Nik & Paul | 8/26 |
| Connect with Mike, John, and Ethan regarding the work day for the Culver Connector and WNYMBA meeting on 9/13 | Paul & TJ | 8/25 |

| | | |
|---|----------|------|
| Share the survey questions with Nik | Sue | 8/22 |
| Publish the membership survey | Nik & TJ | 8/29 |
| Identify a location to store the 4-wheeler for the winter | Jake | 11/1 |

Meeting Minutes:

- Treasurer Vacancy
 - Christie communicated her resignation, The board reviewed and there were no objections to accepting Christie's resignation
 - Her term was due to end at the end of the year
 - All present are in favor of reassigning duties until a new Treasurer can be elected
 - **TJ will go go the bank and have Christie removed from the bank account**
 - Jerry will be gone starting in Nov, expresses concern about being a signer
 - TJ moved to make Jerry an authorized signatory
 - All present voted to approve
 - Paul asked if we can do Zelle transfers from our account. He noted that Zelle would present the need for some of the paper checks Christie was writing.
 - TJ noted that one benefit of checks is that you can add a note
 - We will also need to transfer the PayPal and Venmo accounts
 - **TJ and Nik will work together to look at our accounts; they may be outdated and there may be an opportunity to improve our processes**
- Golden Hill Trail Steward Vacancy
 - Burt has tendered his resignation as the trail steward at Golden Hill
 - **Travis will ask around to see if anyone is interested**
 - Paul asked if the club had received the WNYMBA equipment that Burt had for use at Golden Hill. Travis reported that both weed trimmer are working, but one is not ideal based on how it was repaired. The only thing we need to replace was the handle.
- CAT Country Weed Trimmer Replacement(s)
 - Travis suggests that we do not need to purchase a new weed trimmer at this time. He can get a \$99 handle from Stihl or there is one for half the price, same part # for half the price.
 - **TJ will order the half price handle.**
 - If the other one comes in we will keep it in the event of future repair needs
 - Jake recommends getting the diamond shaped 1.05 gauge string for our trimmers; it will fit most 0.95 gauge trimmers
- Legal Issues with old Lawsuit
 - The party filed a lawsuit and has named many parties, including WNYMBA.
 - TJ spoke with the attorney that WNYMBA's insurance company assigned: Matt from Crum & Forester
 - WNYMBA will be assigned a defense attorney
 - Anticipate that this will work itself out in 6 months

- The attorneys will file a motion to dismiss us, WNYMBA was not properly served
- Fall Planning
 - TJ checked in with JJ at Erie County Parks & Recreation re: the assistance with the Culver Connector. He confirmed that they have a crew and completed the work. **Paul will check this out tomorrow when they're at Sprague for the group ride and report back to this group, including pictures.**
 - Paul reported that someone from Boston Terracotta has offered to make stones honoring Greg that we can place at each end of the trail. This individual knew Greg well.
 - **Paul and TJ will connect with Mike (Colden Country Inn), John (42N), Ethan (Campus) and Dee (Loud) about having an event to honor Greg**
 - Proposed that we do this 9/13: Trail day followed by a meeting at the CCI
 - KB has invited WNYMBA to participate in the beginner MTB day on 9/13
 - Nik suggested that WNYMBA have a table at the KB event
 - Jake suggested that the trail work should take precedent over tabling
 - CHQ Camping weekend first weekend in Sept
 - Fri 6pm ride Loud & Long Point, bring lights
 - Sat 11am rides at Whalen
 - Jake has everything linked in the event
 - Sat No Consensus will play at Loud
- Insurance updates:
 - We have access to an online portal for document retrieval
 - The insurance agent asked if WNYMBA hosts activities for children under 20
 - If so, we would need to have a separate rider, require parent/guardian on site
 - Would also need to be up to date on policies and training related to keeping children safe from risk of abuse
 - Technically we should not have individuals under the age of 20 on group rides
 - We need to have waivers signed for any activity people do with us - group rides, camping weekend, volunteer activities, fundraisers, etc.
 - Jake suggested that we use the liability form that we already use
 - Nik suggested that we could include the waiver on the FB event to make it easier for people, also post on our website
 - Travis suggested that we include the waiver when people renew their WNYMBA membership; should help us get a good chunk of people
- Start of Nominations and Election Season (Fall)
 - Nominations will start in Sept
 - Election will be in Nov
 - Transition in Dec
 - Outgoing members will communicate with incoming members
 - Positions up for election:
 - Treasurer
 - VP

- Media Director
 - Select Board Members (Jerry, Jake, Jen, Kristian, Travis)
-
- Finishing Member/Public Survey (lets get it out)
 - **Sue will share the survey questions with Nik, Nik and TJ will work together to get the survey published**
 - TJ would like to capture info to ensure we are getting legitimate responses
- Summer Event Feedback
 - The EVL trail fest was primarily WNYMBA participants, somewhat small turnout
 - Kristian noted that historically there were people who had enjoyed camping at Spruce Lake
 - The people who came to the EVL trail fest loved it
 - Some feedback from people that there wasn't a lot of promotion
 - People don't register beforehand, so it's tough to gauge ahead of time
 - Holimont doesn't approach this as a \$\$ opportunity. It's more about sharing our trails with other people who love our community and trails
 - Feedback from some people who are turned off about the cost given that they choose to not use the lift service
 - Option for future years: something like \$25 to camp without using the lift service.
 - EBC is great, people really enjoyed having them there
 - The band - Olmstead Dub System - was amazing
 - Nik noted that proof of membership in WNYMBA slowed down the line
 - Travis noted that they see this all the time - people just don't sign up ahead of time. That being said, Holimont is open to suggestions to improve the process
 - Kristian noted that there was nowhere to get shade and that may have caused some people to clear out early
-
- Ellicottville Trail Proposal
 - Travis noted that the state has not been responding, questioning what needs to happen next
 - Dan Schafer has responded, but now this is with the Regional Forester
 - **TJ will reach out to Dan and see if he can get any movement**
 - Jake suggested that the individuals who are proposing these trails come to a WNYMBA meeting and present their proposal. He noted concerns re: our ability to maintain the existing EVL trails; what is their plan and involvement in trail building and maintenance? Suggests that they come to a McCarty Hill trail day and build kickers, do maintenance on berms.
- Other items:
 - TJ confirmed the Amazon refund of \$179 has posted to our account
- Treasurer's report
 - Our bank balance as of today is \$9,424

- Since our last update our debits were just over \$2,000, primarily for insurance and trail expenses
- TJ heard from Heather that she will be cutting a check to WNYMBA as a donation for our support of Rooted
 - Note that we spent \$1,042 for Rooted
 - Note that food expenses have gone up significantly
 - Almost half the \$ spent was for the pizza party on Thursday
- Jake drove the 4-wheeler; drives very well after the repairs
 - **Jake will identify a location to store the 4-wheeler for the winter**
- TJ noted a need to look for other options to support Rooted in the future, the group discussed needing to connect with Heather and her team in 2026 to get a better feel for what the event will look like and the best way for WNYMBA to provide support
 - All in agreement that the current level of support is too much for the number of volunteers we have
- Paul noted that in past years we did better with merch because it was next to the breakfast area
- This year there was not a “vendor row” so our WNYMBA merch table was on its own

Motion to adjourn by Jake, second by Jerry at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted: Susan Watkins, Secretary