

## **WNYMBA General Membership Meeting**

Saturday September 13, 2025

TJ called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM

### 1. Summer Recap

- a. This season started out with a wet spring, but turned out to be a great summer of riding! Some favorite memories are:
  - i. Rooted
  - ii. The Holimont camping weekend
  - iii. Last weekend's campout at Loud, rides, band, and fundraiser for Amtryke
  - iv. Wednesday night group rides, great seeing new faces this year
  - v. National trails day at HHE to work on Funkytown and Bedlam
  - vi. Riding the new Funkytown for the first time
  - vii. Today's work on the Culver Connector at Sprague Brook

### 2. Trail Building Day: The Culver Connector

- a. We had a fantastic turnout of volunteers today and the trail is 90% complete
- b. WNYMBA extends their thanks to Erie County Parks for using the mini excavator to get the trail started for us
- c. We will have a dedication ceremony at a date TBD. Boston Valley Terracotta will donate trail markers for each end of the trail
- d. This is a great example of the perseverance needed to build new trail; it's been almost 5 years since Paul first raised the idea for this trail

### 3. Fall Trail Work Ideas

- a. Darien Lakes State Park: Sue will follow up with the DLSP team regarding the trail summary she provided for the section that will begin to complete the loop. The section in question is just past the southern end of Oz. This is in response to changes at the State level, particularly regarding new definitions around what constitutes a wetland. The trail had previously been approved, but just before we were set to have our first work day the State contacted us and informed us that we would need additional levels of review.
- b. Ellicottville: Tom R noted that they typically delay leaf blowing because the oak trees take much longer to drop their leaves. There was discussion that if the EVL team could get more volunteers they could leaf blow multiple times. Jake noted 4 spots with blowdowns; the locations and photos are on the EVL trail conditions page. Jake noted a need for outsloping on Mutton Hollow and lopping to remove face slappers on the Pale Ales.
- c. Hunter's Creek: Sean continues to work with the Erie County Parks Department on the proposed bridge off of the upper parking lot. The delay is with the County; they are waiting for the wood that they will supply to build the bridge. In the meantime, someone has fixed up that crossing so it is no longer an immediate

danger. However, the fix will eventually erode, so we will continue to push forward with the bridge once the County is able to supply the lumber.

- d. Harris Hill Extension: Thom W noted that he may do a trail day on MC Squared to shore up the skinnies. Also may do some finishing work on Funkytown.
- e. Golden Hill: Burt has stepped down as Trail Steward and we are actively seeking a new Steward. If you are interested please contact TJ.
- f. Allegany State Park: Jon S addressed the nettles and blowdowns. TJ noted that the Parks staff is supposed to manage the blowdowns but are stretched thin as the crews manage multiple parks.

#### 4. Nominations for positions

- a. Treasurer: Sara Jank
- b. Vice President: Paul Marko, Jon Sundquist
- c. Media Director: Nik Barnum
- d. Advisory Board: Jerry Barbour, Julie Drake, Kristian Reiber, Jennifer Wolfe, Mike Boyer, Melissa Melnik, Sean Murray, Kendrick Burnett, Adam Sauerwein, Brad Boyer
- e. We will accept online nominations through November
- f. Voting will be in person at the November general membership meeting
- g. Outgoing representatives will transition to the incoming folks through December, and the newly-elected folks will move into their positions on January 1
- h. The Board will discuss voting for family memberships

#### 5. New paper maps

- a. Shops have reached out for more maps
- b. Historically maps have been a good money-maker for the club
- c. We are out of inventory, so TJ asked if we want to print new maps. The general consensus was that it is a good idea, and now would be a good time to update what trail systems we have on which maps. The members present agreed with these combinations:
  - i. Erie/Genesee trails: Sprague, Hunter's, and DLSP
  - ii. Cattaraugus/Allegany: McCarty, Golden Hill, ASP
  - iii. Chautauqua: Long Point, HHE, Whalen, others TBD with Jake's input
- d. Folks agreed that we should not wait for new trails to be approved, but rather indicate them as proposed with a dotted line
- e. The general consensus was that we should sell ads.
  - i. Piper from Culver's Design said she would buy an ad!
  - ii. We will add map sponsors to the website
- f. The goal is to work on the maps through the fall and go to print in Dec or Jan to have new maps in early 2026
- g. TJ will take the lead on getting sponsors
- h. Jon S and Paul will work on updating the maps and designing the materials for print

6. Merchandise for sale

- a. We have new merch!
  - i. Headbands
  - ii. Socks

7. Treasurer's report

- a. As of today WNYMBA's bank balance is \$9,017.58
- b. Recent expenses include:
  - i. Port-o-johns for the CHQ camping weekend
  - ii. Food for this meeting
  - iii. \$1,200 for food for Rooted
    - 1. Rooted donated \$1,500 to WNYMBA
  - iv. We expect an influx of cash in the next month or so from membership renewals

8. New business

- a. McCarty Hill trail proposal:
  - i. Brad asked for an update on the proposal. TJ shared that we check with the DEC once a month, and it's currently stalled in the State approval process. WNYMBA's point of contact is Dan Schafer. TJ also noted that the DEC has asked that we keep a single point of contact for WNYMBA, and at this time that is Travis for McCarty.
  - ii. Brad noted that he has been in contact with Patrick Maron regarding Bluemont and Patrick has been responsive. Jake noted that Patrick is Dan's boss.
  - iii. TJ noted that there is typically a long lead time for trail approvals; the Culver Connector that we built today took 5 years from concept to completion, and the DLSP project to close the loop has been in the works for even longer.
  - iv. Jake added that tree harvests can slow progress. However, once the State has logged an area, it can sometimes become easier to get State approvals.
- b. Legal action:
  - i. An individual who crashed at the Lakeside Bike Park in Buffalo has sued multiple parties, including WNYMBA.
  - ii. TJ has been in contact with the club's attorney (assigned thanks to our relationship with IMBA) who has advised that we were not properly served. The attorney has suggested that this legal action will likely time out, and that there should be no negative impact on the club.
- c. Tax ID / Relationship with IMBA
  - i. TJ reported that, in accordance with updated IRS rules, we are now our own 501c3 as opposed to being a subordinate member of IMBA.

- ii. This should help with grant writing because in the past some funders would be confused when they looked up WNYMBA's tax ID and saw IMBA.
  - iii. This change does not impact our relationship with IMBA nor the benefits we get as a result of that relationship.
- d. Upcoming events:
  - i. Jakes Rocks Trail Fest weekend of 9/19
  - ii. Roots, Rocks & Ridges at Holimont 9/27-28

Jake moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15, seconded by Nik