

## **WNYMBA General Membership Meeting: November 29, 2025**

TJ Zydel called the meeting to order at: 10:20, seconded by Rachel Curtin

In attendance: TJ Zydel, Paul Marko, Nik Barnum, Julie Drake, Kristian Reiber, Sara Jank, Kendrick Burnett, Jon Sundquist, Jacob Bodway, Rachel Curtin, Jerry Barbour, Greg Snow, Thom Wright, Heather Kinal, Murl Kinal, Susan Watkins, Mike Moscato, Jennifer Wolfe

### **Agenda:**

- Opening remarks:
  - a. Current membership is at 322
  - b. Trending down
  
- Fall activities:
  - a. Thanks to everyone, especially Paul, for making the Culver Connector happen!
    - i. Looking to do a dedication in the spring of 2026
  - b. Leaf blowing at HHE, Long Point
  - c. Long Point blowdowns have been removed
  - d. Thom started grooming at Loud yesterday!
  
- Update on legal action regarding Lakeside Bike Park
  - a. The case is due to injuries sustained at the Bike Park in Buffalo
  - b. The defense attorney (O'Toole Scrivo) assigned to WNYMBA is waiting for feedback from the Plaintiff's attorney. This is at no cost to WNYMBA.
  - c. WNYMBA does not have a MOU to maintain the trail. WNYMBA served simply as a "cheerleader" to get the project approved and completed
  - d. Our attorney is still pushing to get the complaint against us dismissed
  - e. The landscaper that completed the work is Trowbridge Wolf Michaels Landscape
  - f. The construction firm that built the building at the park is Pinto Construction Services Inc.
  
- Planning for Winter
  - a. Fat Bike rides planned at ASP
  - b. We need to be in contact with Adele re: NYE plans
  - c. Fatbike Day & Chili cookoff 1/10 at Loud Performance
    - i. Paul suggested Flying Bison beer sales as a fundraiser for the club
  - d. Adele's 1000th day in a row of riding falls at the end of January; Sara is in contact with her and will let folks know if there will be an organized ride

- Planning for Spring
  - a. TJ and Paul met with Andy, formerly of Love and Sprockets, to discuss the potential to partner for the bike swap
  - b. The discussion is to join forces as a single "Buffalo Bike Swap"
  - c. There is already a beneficiary: Wheels for Workers. We are trying to figure out how the fundraising will work if we combine and there are two beneficiaries
    - i. One option on the table is to have people who are dropping off bikes to choose whether they would like to donate the % to WNYMBA or to Wheels for Workers
    - ii. General discussion is that the idea of bike sellers choosing who to donate the proceeds to does not feel good
    - iii. Jake suggested it would be better for there to be a straight percentage for each non-profit
  - d. Andy has historically had a sponsor to cover the facility rental
  - e. Sue suggested this is an opportunity to have a defined merchandise strategy
    - i. Option for promoting map sales as "suggested donation of \$XX"
  - f. Opportunity to do a presentation on MTB in WNY; Paul volunteered to do this
    - i. Suggestion that Paul could work with Nik to put together a video highlighting what we do
  - g. Date of the Buffalo Bike Swap is March 8, 2026
  
- Discussion regarding trail work
  - a. There are multiple schools of thought. Some people feel that there aren't enough trail days. Others feel that they want to help but don't know what needs to be done. Another group feels like, while there is maintenance to do, large scale trail days that require big groups of volunteers are few and far between and require work to plan and execute.
  - b. Kristian asked if we could create something that serves as a guideline to let people know how they can be useful at a trail day. Essentially, what they can do without needing guidance.
  - c. Jake suggested that the trail stewards need to define projects and direct the volunteers
  - d. Jake suggested a trail stewards meeting in the spring
    - i. What projects will you do this year, and how will you prioritize them?
    - ii. What tools do you have?
    - iii. What help do you need?
    - iv. Set expectations for communication
  - e. Darien Lakes State Park has asked additional questions regarding the new section of trail that will begin to connect the end of Oz to Shotgun Ridge. Sue, Paul, and Jerry are putting together a response. Will reference IMBA's trail building manual.

- i. Tri-County Stone had reached out to Nik offering to donate stone. Once we have an approved project need to get back in touch with them
    - ii. Paul noted that we had conversations with DLSP staff who indicated that they would be willing to store the stone for us
  - f. Maps: Paul is working with Jon on updated maps
    - i. Plan is to have them for spring; need them to be ready for the Buffalo Bike Swap on March 8
    - ii. Leaning towards not doing ads
    - iii. TJ is applying for a grant to offset the cost of the printing
    - iv. There will be 2 maps: north and south
    - v. We need to add Whalen to the southern map
    - vi. **Motion by Rachel second by Jon: Spending up to \$2,000 for the northern map - approved**
    - vii. **Motion by Rachel second by Jon: Spending up to \$2,000 for the southern map - approved**
  - g. TJ noted that he has plans to communicate with Holimont over the offseason
  - h. TJ noted that he will reach out to Kissing Bridge over the offseason
  - i. Rooted 2026 is on for July 9 - 12! TJ wants to start planning for volunteer opportunities earlier this year
  - j. TJ asked if people would be interested in doing an out of state trip in 2026
    - i. Jake suggested Rothrock
    - ii. There's also W Virginia Bike Bash
  - k. Kristian noted that a few years ago we used to do a February/early March social and fundraiser. TJ indicated that he would like to do that in 2026
    - i. Goal is to keep it simple
    - ii. Paul used to run this; requires getting a location and securing the baskets
    - iii. Historically people paid ~\$20 which got them pizza and 2 pours
    - iv. Sara and Nik volunteered to organize this
  - l. TJ indicated that we will have Board Meetings on the even months, General Membership meetings on the odd months
    - i. In December will have a Board Meeting that includes incoming and outgoing members
  - m. TJ gave special thanks to Jake and Mike for their mentorship and support
- Partnership proposal from Brad Boyer
    - a. He and other riders he's working with are interested in progressive, downhill, enduro types of trail
    - b. TJ talked with the DEC regarding the proposed downhill runs at McCarty Hill; proposal is still under review
    - c. Jon indicated that he would be happy to help given is relationships and history of getting trails approved and built at McCarty; this would be a great mentoring opportunity
    - d. TJ has a follow up meeting with them in February

- Treasurer's report:
  - a. We have \$13,864 in the bank account
  - b. Rec'd donation from Rooted
  - c. Majority of expenses were related to trail days, also port-o-johns for the camping weekend
  - d. Donation from Gail and Ed Hutton
  
- Elections
  - a. Vice President: Jon Sundquist
  - b. Treasurer: Sara Jank
  - c. Media Director: Nik Barnum
  - d. Advisory Board
    - i. Sean Murray declined his nomination
    - ii. Three (2) year terms: Greg Snow, Thom Wright, Kristian Rieber
    - iii. One (1) year term: Missy Melnik

Heater moved to adjourn, Sara seconded to end the meeting at 12:02

#### Action Items:

What	Who	When
Pull Jon into the discussion regarding the downhill trail proposal at McCarty Hill	TJ	12/31/25
Share the McCarty Hill downhill proposal with Jon, Jake, Mike, and Thom	TJ	12/5/25
Organize a February social / fundraiser	Nik & Sara	2/28/26

#### Votes:

- Motion by Rachel second by Jon: Spending up to \$2,000 for the northern map - approved
- Motion by Rachel second by Jon: Spending up to \$2,000 for the southern map - approved

Minutes recorded by Sue Watkins, Secretary