

Border Route Trail Association

Board of Directors Meeting / December 07 2022 / 7:00 PM / St. Paul, MN

Attendees

(Board Members) Brian Hanson, Tom Suter, Deena Reisman, Felicia Hokenstad, John Elliot, Gary Carlson, Chris Fathergill, Bob Jarvis, Larry Quinn,

(Other Attendees) Pam Tavernier, Kennedy Malec, Susan Pollock, Rod Markin, Tom Reichert, Scott and Nancy, Deb

Agenda

Roundtable Reports

2023 Board of Directors Roster (Vote to approve)

Vote to approve Treasurer's report and December meeting minutes

Determine January meeting date

Notes

- John Elliot confirmed that we have 177 trail guides in stock and requested that we find a better format for the online invoices so all the information fits on one page. Deena Reisman reported that the payment for the online orders for trail guides didn't show in our bank account. Felicia Hokenstad agreed to look into this and also provide the invoices for online orders to Deena. John also suggested adding the option to order a trail guide the old way - with a paper order form and payment by check.
- Mark Strayer from the REI store in Bloomington reached out with interest in stocking our trail guide and map set at the store. When Mark reaches out, he will be directed to John Elliot to complete the order. Brian Hanson suggested that he would like to see if we can stock the trail guide and map sets in the other REI stores (Roseville and Maple Grove) in the cities as well.
- Brian asked John Elliot for 10 trail guides and asked Deena to order 10 map sets from the NCTA website. We want to have a trail guide and a map set each to be available to help influence the three REI stores and Midwest Mountaineering to stock these at their stores. We will use one for a door prize at the Annual Meeting, and the 5 remaining go into the booth box that Pam now has.
- The BRTA did not have a booth at the recent Midwest Mountaineering Fall Expo, but the MN Rovers had our brochures stocked at their table. Brian and Felicia attended the event to network a bit and attended the BWAC presentation led by Rod Markin.
- Reminder that our Annual Membership Meeting will be virtual this year on Thursday, January 12, 2023 and our guest speaker is Jen "Wandering Pine" Theisen, who thru hiked the BRT this year
- Deena shared the Treasurer Report and it was put to vote and approved
- Mechanized Report

- John Elliot has been in contact with John Benson (USFS) to ask about the missing kiosk that was replaced with a billboard on the west end of the trail. John B. confirmed that they removed the billboard because they were awarded a grant to replace it. John E. will follow up about our items that were on the kiosk to see if we can get them back.
- Larry Quinn presented a few different options to replace our kiosk boxes that hold the trail logs. Most agreed that the standard wall-mounted style mailbox would work well. It was suggested to add the BRT and NCT stickers to the mailboxes. It was also agreed that one of our 2023 priorities would be to replace the existing trail log boxes and add additional boxes at various trailhead locations. The exact amounts and locations are still up for discussion.
- Gary Carlson was happy to share with the crew that, even with the many obstacles we faced in early spring, we were able to maintain ALL non wilderness miles this year. He also suggested that a priority for 2023 on the non wilderness miles will be brushing.
- Wilderness Report
 - After approximately 20 years supporting the BRTA, Tom Suter is stepping away from the Board of Directors - huge thanks to his service! He does still have the tools and we need to find a place to store them. Tom is succeeded by Chris Fothergill, our new Wilderness Trail Director.
 - Brian reminded Felicia to add a note to our trail conditions page to warn hikers about the flooding at the Long Portage section and suggested to the group that it might be worth considering some sort of reroute in the future. Felicia will also double check the NCT trail alerts page to assure it's listed there, too.
 - We need a list of folks that have first aid and saw certifications to adequately plan for the upcoming first aid and saw training. John Elliot recently took the WFA training with the Rovers and shared that it was a good experience. It was suggested to reach out to that trainer to see if we can schedule a specific training for our group. Susan Pollock (BWAC) shared the contact information for the WFA trainer (Active Source). This will be a priority to work out in the next couple of months, before the trail maintenance season starts.
- The 2023 Board of Directors roster was shared and approved for a vote at the Annual Membership meeting on January 12th.
 - Felicia Hokenstad (President), Brian Hanson (Vice President), Deena Reisman (Treasurer), Chris Fothergill (Wilderness Trail Director), Gary Carlson (Director at Large and acting Mechanized Trail Director), John Elliot (Equipment Coordinator), Pam Tavernier (Marketing Director), Bob Jarvis (Trip Registrar/Membership Director), Larry Quinn (Director at Large), and Ed Solstice (Director at Large)
 - Secretary, Mechanized Trail Director, and Web Administrator positions are still open - Felicia will post online to see if we can gauge some interest
 - We need an updated contact list
- Larry Quinn shared an example of how to carry a chainsaw with a gait belt and suggested that a 2023 priority should be to determine if/when we need to consider new chainsaws.
- Felicia Hokenstad opened up a discussion with the board to discuss what pros and cons surround the possibility of becoming a chapter of the NCTA. It was suggested that we

invite someone from the Kek to discuss their experience changing from a separate org to a NCTA chapter. The conversation was tabled for a future meeting.

- Felicia suggested that the next couple of board meetings switch to virtual now that we are heading into cold/flu season and winter weather. It was agreed that meetings in January and February will be virtual. We'll discuss switching back to in-person meetings when we get closer to the trail clearing season.
- The date for our January board meeting is Wednesday, January 25, 2023 @ 7pm, zoom link to follow

Action Items

- New format for invoices of online orders (Felicia H. to John E.)
- Paypal statements and online order invoices (Felicia H. to Deena R.)
- Adding the option to order trail guides using the paper order form to the website (Felicia H.)
- Order 10 mapsets from the NCTA website (Deena R. to Brian H.)
- John Elliot to provide 10 trail guides (John E. to Brian H.)
- Follow up with the Forest Service to see if we can get our kiosk items back (John E.)
- Add a note to the website about the flooding at the Long Portage section and make sure it's listed on the NCT trail conditions page (Felicia H.)
- Find a new place to store the wilderness clearing tools (Chris F.) (Brian's Garage)
- Reach out to WFA trainers (the Rovers used) to see if we can schedule a BRTA-specific WFA training session (Felicia H. and Brian H.)
- Create a spreadsheet with all current first aid and saw certifications (Felicia H., Brian H., Chris F., Gary C.)
- Post on social media about open board positions and put together a new spreadsheet with BOD contact information (Felicia H.)
- Invite someone from Kekekabic Trail to talk through the process of becoming NCT Chapter (Felicia H.)

Next Meeting Agenda

Roundtable Reports

Q&A Discussion with Derrick Passee from the Kek - NCTA Chapter

Vote to approve Treasurer's report and December meeting minutes

Determine February meeting date