

Border Route Trail Association

Board of Directors Meeting / Wed, Sep 27, 2023 / 7PM / [Google Link Here](#)

Attendees

Board Members (RSVPd): Felicia Hokenstad, Pam Tavernier, Andrea Breitung, Deena Reisman, Gary Carlson, Brian Hanson, Bob Jarvis

Other Attendees: Seth Taft, Bill Jeans

Board Members Missing: Chris Fothergill, Larry Quinn, Ed Solstad

Meeting Agenda + Notes

- **Vote to Approve Previous Months Meeting Minutes** - Motion by Gary, Second by Brian
- **Andrew's Resignation and BRTA Future (30 mins)**
 - NCTA Proposal
 - Felicia guided the group through another discussion about the benefits of becoming an NCTA chapter.
 - Support through NCTA staff to care for many administrative tasks that we don't have the capacity for with our small team of volunteers like maintaining our 501c3 status, financing and maintaining a website, running a membership program, organizing volunteer training, etc.
 - The NCTA already has a well functioning and effective membership program. If we became a chapter, folks would become NCTA members and designate our chapter to receive part of the membership fee (I believe it's \$12/member). The NCTA sends out emails to welcome new members and notify expiring members.
 - The really important aspect of having a membership is that it's a base to reach out to for volunteer needs. People who are financially invested in our group are more likely to dedicate time and energy to maintaining the trail.
 - We'd get more attention and support from Matt Davis, the NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Minnesota chapters.
 - We'd gain visibility - the NCTA expands across eight states in the Upper Midwest with a robust community of volunteers
 - Some fears associated with becoming a chapter are:
 - Autonomy over finances. The truth is that we would be able to keep our money, but it would be deposited into a checking account that NCTA manages. It's a checking account specifically for our "chapter", though, and we can reach out to them with our financial needs. Felicia provided a handout at the meeting with more detailed information about how NCTA chapters manage their finances.

- Losing our identity as the BRT. Felicia argues that the Kek Chapter has been involved with the NCTA for a decade, at least, and the public still refers to that section as the “Kekekabic Trail”
 - All in all, if we became a chapter, we’d get a lot of support from the NCTA and be able to focus on the two things that matter most - recruiting volunteers and maintaining the trail. We’ll continue this discussion at our October board meeting.
- **Guidebook Discussion (10 mins)**
 - Felicia made a suggestion that we discontinue offering guidebook sales on our website and strictly sell through other retailers (i.e. SHTA website, NCTA website, REI in the twin cities area, various lodges near the BWCA). We really don’t have the capacity to keep up with receiving orders and shipping them out and we could focus on more important things if we let this one go. There was some pushback. We’ll continue this discussion at the October board meeting.
- **Treasurer’s Report/Vote to Approve** - Motion by Pam, Second by Felicia
- **Other Business**
 - The board approved an order for 500 guidebooks. Motion by Felicia, Second by Pam.
 - Gary would like to get a group together to sort through our equipment and prepare gear for John & Larry’s upcoming clearing trip (not open to the public). Brian and Gary will meet offline for this.
 - Bill Jeans, a hiker who joined us for the board meeting, would like to volunteer time to maintain the trail. Brian will connect with Bill offline.
 - The USFS is requesting us to submit volunteer hours by the end of September. Brian will work on this offline.
- Next Board Meeting
 - Date: Wednesday, October 25 at 7PM