

Board Meeting Minutes
Buffalo Orienteering Club
9/10/2023
1:00 p.m. at Phil Wolfing's Home

Attendees: Rob Reeves, Dave Reeves (non-voting), Dave Cady, Lynne DePasquale, Simon Wolfing (non-voting), Rod Cameron, Henry Davis, Steve Daly, Phil Wolfing

- The Board approved the 7/22/2023 board meeting minutes and reviewed any outstanding action items
 - **Phil still to provide itemized list of 2022 map hike kits returned from retail partners**
 - **Rob still to prepare non meet-specific school-year waiver form for use by WNY Maritime**
 - **Steve still to create executive summary of OUSA rules for course designers and meet directors**
 - **Phil still to prepare a map hike kit cost analysis**
 - **Re: Chestnut Ridge permanent course map, Phil to contact Dave regarding incorporating all edits into the new map scale before sending the map to Jennifer for posting to the website.**

- Past Events
 - Ellicottville Adventure Run, 8/26 - Greg Hyatt
 - There were some mapping errors, specifically no start triangle or finish on the map
 - 1 control was misplaced; next time he will need to use duct tape
 - A discussion was held regarding setting of controls. The Board agreed that every control needs a 2nd set of eyes to confirm and control cannot be placed without there being a ribbon. If a ribbon is missing, notify event coordinator.
 - Surprising number of late registrations. 46 total participants, which was more than last year
 - Greg intends to not hold this event next year and will re-evaluate for the following year
 - A discussion was held among the Board regarding the scheduling of this event, with the Board considering whether to hold the event every other year, as opposed to each year.
 - Greg requests that the Club update the Ellicottville map to reflect the recent logging
 - He wants to change the start location to the Holiday Valley Upper Ski Patrol and Training Center facility.

- Upcoming Events

- o US Masters Championships, 9/23 - Dave Cady

- o Registrations (hoping for 250). Now have 223 signed up. Still accepting registrations for another 1.5 weeks.
- o Still need some volunteers
- o Dave noted that coordinating volunteers is very time consuming and may identify a volunteer coordinator to assist next time such an event is held.
- o A discussion was held about how best to thank volunteers, either by holding an event (if feasible) or sending a thank you.

- o Erie County Forestry Score-O, 10/14 - Lynne DePasquale

- o Already vetted
- o Lynne to get info to Jennifer for the website.

- o Knox Farm State Park Night-O, 11/11 - Dave Cady

- o Just have 3 courses, short, medium, and long and mass start.
- o No "handicap" design like last time as it caused some confusion last time

- Standing Committee Reports

- o Mapping - Dave Cady

- o Burmaster map - Expand to include former scout camp. Rod has agreed to take on expansion of Burmaster Map. **Target Spring 2024 for scout event that will be held there.**
- o Dave to start training new mappers

- o Finance - Henry Davis

- o Henry does not have anything to report for this time regarding handling cash reserves, **will update the Board at next meeting**
- o Henry provided midyear report for Club finances (as of June 2023)
 - Top issues:
 - Member dues ahead of pace
 - Entry fees lagging a bit
 - Map printing expenses way up, due to backlog
 - o It was noted that the map printer the Club typically used is no longer in business
 - o Rapid Ray's is the best alternative

- o Map Hikes - Phil Wolfling

- o No update to report

- Website - Jennifer Borowicz/Steve Daly
 - Steve provided an update on the website progress, targeting launch by beginning of next orienteering season. Working with Jennifer on events page for the site.
 - Shared draft with Rob who provided comments
- Membership - Rob Reeves
 - No update to report
- Marketing - Lynne DePasquale
 - The Board discussed issuing a press Release for Masters' event to advertise. Henry Davis to assist with drafting press release.
- Equipment - Phil Wolfling
 - New stakes for controls
 - A conversation was held among the Board regarding air dibblers. The Board discussed possibly having Jennifer send an email to Club members, notifying them that they can purchase their own dibblers and see if we can partner with a retailer to sell them.
- Old Business
 - Burmaster Park permanent course - Dave Reeves
 - Dave still to coordinate with Deputy Commissioner of Niagara County
 - Anticipates implementing course in October/November
 - Emery Park permanent course - Phil Wolfling
 - Phil still interested in pursuing this
 - Spring Scout Orienteering Camporee - Rob Reeves
 - Board approved assisting with this event.
 - May be able to use permanent course, if implemented in time
 - OUSA Rules of Competition - Steve Daly
 - Steve still to do, **will aim to provide by next Board meeting**
 - Amazon Business Account
 - People who need funds can request the info for using the Amazon Business Account. **Dave to send the info to Henry.**
 - This allows you to not have to get reimbursed and order directly but you need the info from Henry. Our tax-exempt certificate is on file with Amazon.

- New Business
 - Nominating Committee
 - Nominating committee must be formed to nominate Board slate for 2024-26
 - Looking for people to serve on the nominating committee
 - Still need a board member on the nominating committee
 - Lynne is interested is serving again on nominating committee
 - Rob would like to have nominating committee seated by November
 - 2024 Meet Schedule
 - Draft schedule to be set at the November meeting. **Board members can send thoughts to Greg about possible schedule before November meeting.**
 - Will need to set any winter events in November
 - A discussion was held among the Board regarding the ideal annual schedule
 - Used to have a “season” in the Spring and Fall but currently only doing events about once per month
 - Rob reported that feedback from larger clubs is that 1 event per month is not enough to sustain Club’s participation and get new members
 - Possible option: 2 events per month in spring (May/June) and fall seasons (Sept/Oct), with training and guided map hikes on the off times
 - Questions were raised whether we have sufficient volunteers for meet coordinators to hold any additional events
 - Possible “volunteer coordinator” for the Club
 - Club had tried this in the past but it did not continue.
 - Dave Reeves expressed possible interest in this role, in an effort to call individuals who have expressed interest in volunteering and then setting them up with meet directors.
 - This person could work with the meet director to identify volunteers
 - OUSA annual meeting, Thursday September 19, 2023
 - Dave Cady / Rob Reeves to participate
 - Charles Whiteman’s Passing
 - The Board shared remembrances of Charles Whiteman
 - The Club received donations, as Charles had identified the Club as a recipient for donations. **Henry to contact persons who donated and thank them and let them know about 501©(3) status.**

- Request to Participate in Erie County Parks Fall Festival (Como Lake State Park) (Sept. 30)
 - Dave Cady and Phil have expressed interest in attending.
 - Dave Cady to submit a form to the County
 - A discussion was held whether to have map hike sales
 - Dave Cady to reach out to Katy about borrowing her table display

- Erie County Parks -> Director of Recreation (Kate Hilliman), asked about the Club becoming a partner of the Erie County Parks
 - Henry Davis and Dave Cady to meet with County to figure out the parameters of the program, need to identify what the benefits/costs are of participating

- Set November board meeting date & format
 - Thursday November 2nd on Zoom at 7pm
 - **Steve to create a zoom link and circulate**