

Buffalo Orienteering Club Board Meeting Minutes

9/13/2024 at 5:30 pm

Phil's house, 263 Morris Ave, Buffalo 14214

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

*Action Items in Bold

- The Board approved the 7/23/2024 board meeting minutes and reviewed the outstanding action items:
 - **Phil to prepare a map hike cost analysis document.**
 - Phil has not checked on the two controls Mike Lance vetted at Hunter's Creek Park however there have not been any complaints so the issue is considered closed.
 - **Phil is looking into how to check the control boxes to find when a dibbler was punched in at the location. Dave discussing with Phil.**
 - Rod completed the meet report on Emery Park.
 - Adam coordinated with Jennifer to update the website and registration for the Sprague Brook event.
 - Lynne provided updated information to Jennifer on the Erie County Forestry meet and registration will open soon.
 - **Phil to check in with Doug about last year's Sprague Brook map hike controls being picked up.**
 - Dave coordinated with Jennifer to set up the 2025 National Ranking Event on the Club's website. **Rob will set up a Facebook event.**
 - Rob printed out more waiver forms. **Phil will add them to the event box.**

- Past Events
 - Chestnut Ridge Learn & Practice, 8/28
 - Lynne ran the event with Phil assisting. Good turnout for the event with the level of effort needed.
 - We had 14 participants including two that went to the Knox Farm Night-O last year and got a bit lost.
 - 1 map hike sold
 - 1 new membership
 - Four participants from the 4H group that were at the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.
 - Lynne noted next time to potentially run the event earlier in the year to take advantage of more sunlight and potentially run it later in the day, like 6:30pm. The event was pushing towards dusk by the time it finished.

- Upcoming Events
 - Sprague Brook Score-O, 9/21
 - Course is set up with 24 ribbons set out and vetted this week. Need help setting out controls.
 - Six confirmed registered so far.

- There were a few updates to the map from vetting.
 - **Dave will send updates to Phil for inclusion in the map hikes.**
 - Dave recommended to note during the event that the banks of the creek are steep.
 - Rob noted that usually Score-O events have a few paths to start. Adam noted that a few different paths are planned.
 - Adam will send Phil the point values for the controls and Phil will sync the controls and drop them off with Adam.
 - Simon will be picking up fruit and snacks for the event.
 - Adam will coordinate with Jennifer to update the event details to indicate that a mass start will be utilized.
 - Erie County Forestry Score-O, 10/12
 - **Lynne will open registration and will reach out for volunteers to assist with the event.**
 - Knox Farm Night-O, 11/9
 - Dave got the signed permit from the State Park and will pass it on to Phil.
 - Dave indicated the plan is mostly the same as last year although may split the starts to be a group start for each of the courses.
- Standing Committee Reports
 - Mapping
 - Dave spent much of the summer working on the Buffalo State/AKG map which is close to being done.
 - Rod is not currently working on map updates.
 - Finance
 - Checking account is with Citizens, investment account with Schwab. Likely we can't combine accounts under one bank.
 - Henry purchased a CD months ago and another relatively recently. Henry recommended purchasing another one before the interest rates drop.
 - Would be ~15k invested with the 3 CDs in Citizens alongside ~5k in a money market with Schwab.
 - The Board agreed to purchase the third CD.
 - Map Hikes
 - Phil is running low on Knox Farm maps and heard that Gear for Adventure is out of them. **Phil to follow up with Gear.**
 - Phil sent out a reorder to Hyatt's.
 - Phil plans to update the completions postcards supply over winter.
 - **Luke Wolfing did Emery Park this year, Phil will check if he can do next year's.**
 - Lynne and Mike Lance doing Hunter's Creek.
 - Doug and Jackie doing Sprague Brook.
 - Website & Communications
 - Jennifer had asked about having some student interns at school create a new website.
 - **Rob will discuss with her further on details to present to the Board.**
 - Membership

- Rob deleted people from the membership list that have not renewed since the end of 2023.
 - Rob noted there have been 1-2 more members since the last meeting.
 - Marketing
 - Lynne had spoken with 2 students and 1 faculty member in the UB MBA program about how to market the club. Lynne noted that the club has a little bit of funds if some marketing has a cost.
 - Rob noted that a part of the discussion should include defining what the sport is and show what the club offers.
 - The Board agreed to offer the three people from the program free registrations for one of the fall events so they can see what the sport is about.
 - Rob noted that Outside Chronicles uses our Map Hike in their land navigation training workshops, held twice a year at Knox Farm with a maximum of 12 people in each class.
 - Rob noted that the group has their own insurance and obtains their own permit with the State Park to conduct the events.
 - The Board did not see any concerns with this continuing as they purchase the maps from us and the proprietor has joined our club as a member.
 - Equipment
 - Phil noted he bought some new control boxes a while ago but have not used them yet.
 - Adam will grab stakes from Phil for Sprague Brook.
 - Phil is making new map hike controls using scrap aluminum from SR Instruments and stickers to be ordered from Sticker Mule.
- Old Business
 - 2025 National Ranking Event
 - Dave sent the course details to Jennifer and will check on when to send out the event details to the Club email list. Event is planned for Saturday April 26th.
 - Dave is coordinating with volunteers on the various tasks for the event.
 - Registration is live. 25 people have indicated on Attackpoint that they are interested in attending.
 - Map is almost done.
 - Dave noted they will need marshals at road crossings and maybe by controls to keep public interference to a minimum.
 - Dave noted that there is significant construction occurring on campus and it is not yet clear how much of it will affect the courses in the spring.
 - Burmaster Park permanent course
 - Adam is waiting until the adjacent Stonehaven Preserve map is complete.
 - Emery Park permanent course
 - **Phil working on an email request to Erie County Parks about the course.**
 - Club jerseys
 - Henry noted that they will be available for pick up at the fall events.
 - Simon will bring the jerseys to Sprague Brook.

- Livelox
 - No updates. **Dave to follow up with Rainee.**
- Map Hike Waivers
 - Henry noted that Steve is interested in working on the disclaimer language but he is waiting until he sets up his private law practice. **Henry will follow up with him in November.**
- Conflict of Interest Policy
 - No updates. **Rob will resend the language to the Board.**
- Girl Scouts Mapping Inquiry
 - **Dave to follow up with his contact.**
 - One thought was to see that if we end up mapping the camp, that the club can get access once per year to the property to hold an event.
 - Possibly it could be a learn and practice instead of a full meet.
- Electronics volunteers training
 - Dave noted he can train people at the Knox Farm Night-O.
 - Dave is open to suggestions of non-board members to reach out to. **Rob listed a handful of potential members and Dave will reach out to them.**
- New Business
 - Burmaster Park map usage request
 - Rob has the pdf of the map and would like to send it to a Scout troop to use to complete their orienteering merit badge requirement of setting their own orienteering course.
 - The Board had no objections.
 - OUSA Annual General Meeting, 9/24
 - Rob will be on the meeting and asked for an alternate delegate to represent the Club.
 - Adam may be available. Rob will put his name in as the alternate.
 - 2025 Annual Meeting
 - The meeting would be on April 19th to avoid interfering with the NRE. This is the day before Easter. The board agreed this should be ok.
 - Rob noted to maybe bring up amending the club by-laws at the meeting to extend the annual meeting scheduling range to into May.
- Set November board meeting date
 - Virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 12 @ 7:00 PM.
 - **Rob to send out Google Meet info and agenda.**