



**FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB**  
Minutes of BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 19, 2014 5:30pm  
170 Roberts Hall, Cornell University

In attendance: board members Shelly Marino, Lorrie Tily, Bruce Dunham, Bruce Roebal, Maria Costanzo, Gary McCheyne, Joel Cisne, Steve Shaum, Denice Cassaro, Sue Aigen, Alan Lockett, and Charlie Fay.

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by President Joel Cisne.

**Review and approval of the February minutes:** Postponed until the next meeting, since not enough people present had read the minutes and/or attended the previous meeting.

**Previous and upcoming races; current activities:**

**March Track Meet (Bruce R.):** There were two “serious” events followed by the inaugural mile of the Kids’ Marathon Miles program, and then Family Fun Day hosted by Karen and Tim Ingall. Everything went very smoothly. The online registration system has made a big difference in getting registration done and getting results out, quickly and easily. It was noted that Adam should train more people in how to use it. Gary mentioned that a lot of bibs were needed for this year’s track season and he will order 1500 for next year.

**Thom B Trail Runs (Joel and Shelly):** Online registration is live and the registration form is available from our website. There will be a new 52K ultra option starting at 7 AM. They will limit this to 30 people and are hoping that the runners will complete each of the 4 loops in 2 hours or less.

**Main Topic: Skunk Cabbage Classic (Joel, Alan):** Joel relayed a report from Gina. There are currently 377 registrants. She has placed ads in the Ithaca Journal and the Cornell Sun, and has a radio spot. The registration form needed to be updated to include the Department of Transportation in the waiver, which means that people who are already registered and signed the previous version of the waiver will have to sign the updated version. Chobani will not be a sponsor, but Ithaca Milk is a possibility. The ham radio group is on board, and Cornell has approved use of the facilities. Three groups have volunteered to man water stops, and one more is needed.

Alan reported on the permit process. He has been working with the DOT on the permit to use Rte. 366, and it has not yet been approved. There was some discussion about whether the permit is needed, since it hasn’t been obtained in the past and we are not requesting a road closure. Also, DOT is requesting information about parts of the course that are outside of their jurisdiction.

Lorrie came up with a to-do list:

- Medals – have been ordered, need to follow up
- Shirts
- Awards – age group, overall
- Mark course
- Equipment list
- Order food
- Ham radio operators – buy them donuts and muffins on race morning
- Custodians – have 3-4 thank-you notes with \$50 cash ready
- Contact head of custodians to open Teagle
- Pick up key to Barton
- Get special key that turns on the water at Teagle
- Meet with CU Police beforehand and on race morning – need them at 366 & Tower, 366 & Game Farm

Need a Runners on Road sign on 366 in Varna (for drivers heading west)  
Get water in 5-gal jugs, need plastic pitchers to scoop it out  
Need PA system

- Gary will rent the truck, bring equipment including a large PA, mark and set course
- Maria can't be at race but will answer any emails that come in to [info@fingerlakesrunners.org](mailto:info@fingerlakesrunners.org) and will make copies of race forms for tower
- Joel will go over the list with Gina and find out what has been done
- everyone needs to solicit volunteers

## **Committee Reports**

**Financials:** Gary moved and Charlie seconded that we approve check signing privileges for Joel, Sophia, and Shelly. There was unanimous agreement.

The Finance Committee met and talked about developing a strategic plan for the club. They suggest a board retreat to brainstorm. Shelly agrees that strategic planning is critically important and should be a high priority. Charlie suggests that a trained facilitator could be helpful. There was general agreement that a retreat is a good idea, and people should send ideas to Sue.

\$10,000 of club assets was invested, with a 70/30 split between stocks and bonds. Bob Talda's name is still on our account but it will be removed. The Finance Committee reviewed the P&L and suggested some small changes to accounting practice.

Sophia spends about 20 hr/month on club financials. Should we hire a bookkeeper to help? If so, Chris I. is interested in doing the job. Sophia is thinking about which tasks could be separated out for a bookkeeper.

The Finance Committee approves of our continuing support for Cayuga Trails 50 and Virgil Crest Ultras by sponsoring aid stations at each.

**Membership (Melissa):** 186 individual, 188 family, 27 life, 401 total. (are teams missing?)

### **News and Outreach:**

**Community Grants (Joel):** are still on the table.

**Race Entry Donations (Joel):** Race directors donated several entries; Joel will make sure that the registrations get to the race directors.

**Belle Sherman 5K (Joel):** They probably need the big clock and the hand timers. Maria and Denice volunteered and will get in touch with Bob Talda and Karen LaFace.

## **Marketing & Programming:**

**Ithaca Festival Mile:** Needs volunteers. Steve, Sue, Gary, Maria, Joel, and Denice all volunteered to help.

**Downtown Ithaca event proposal (Maria):** Vicki Taylor Brous is planning a new 5K fundraiser for Ithaca Police and Fire Department, tentatively for Sept. 27. Maria suggests that we should be involved, lending our name to the event and providing support and equipment mostly on race day. Shelly suggested that we buy a big finish line structure with our club name on it – would give us publicity at all events. Sue moved and (?) seconded that we give approval for Maria to continue to help Vicki with planning and come back to the board with more details. There was unanimous approval of the motion.

**Animal Athletics Clinics (Gary):** The clinic schedule is set; the ads and other details are taking shape.

**Web presence (Maria):** Still waiting for Steve Mohlke to take a look at the speed of the site. (Update: he hopes to have some time over Cornell's spring break.)

**Equipment (Gary):** Inventory is done, and Maria will put it in a Google doc accessible to board members. We'll need to buy 4-5 pop-up tents. Sue suggests checking out the Eureka tent sale.

**Scholarship (Lorrie):** Only one application so far, but there's still time before the deadline. There were about 33 applications last year. Lorrie, Karen, Sandy Fitterer, and Chris I. are on the committee.

**Other VP Business:**

**Trails:** Evan has had to resign as VP due to other commitments. We need a new volunteer coordinator for the 50s, or Steve will coordinate volunteers.

**Road:** No report other than Skunk, discussed earlier.

**Track:** Gary suggests getting a dedicated clock for track.

**New Business:** Denice asked how we can be more inclusive and sensitive to differently abled people participating in our races. Some people have asked for accommodations in the past, but what about people who don't take the initiative to ask – how do we let them know they are welcome? It could be as simple as adding some text to our race applications, website, and publicity. Lorrie said that in the past we became a chapter member of an organization for disabled runners. She will look into the details.

(?) moved and (?) seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Maria Costanzo substituting for Shelly Marino, board secretary