



## FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 11, 2018 5:30 pm  
170 Roberts Hall, Cornell University

#### In attendance:

Board members: Mike Allinger, Lesa Carter, Denice Cassaro, Emily Funk, Adam Engst, Tonya Engst, Rich Heffron, Nancy Kleinrock, Pete Kresock, Alan Lockett, Daniel Longaker, Gary McCheyne, Mickie Sanders-Jauquet, Steve Shaum, Gerrit Van Loon, Scott Wehrwein  
Club members and guests: Bob Beck

(5:30) Welcome of Board—Introductions and welcoming of new members

(6:05) Review of Meeting Materials; Revisions to the Agenda

- .

(6:04) Approval of the December Meeting Minutes

- Adam moves to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded. 10 approved with 6 abstentions. Approved.

#### **New Business (5:31)**

- Bob Beck of the Dryden Rail Trail project
  - Recap:
    - The board agreed that, once the Dryden Rail Trail is fully cleared, FLrC would take responsibility for accurately measuring it (quarter miles). This would fulfill part of the rail trail's in-kind (or financial) contributions that are required for matching-grant purposes. Wheeling the path will count toward that, as would the club paying for and installing the actual mile markers, if such a decision is made by the board. (Although markers on the Waterfront and Black Diamond trails are substantial and expensive, those on the East Hill and South Hill recways are simple, easy to install, and inexpensive.)
    - The club would benefit by having a great new flat, groomed 10-plus-mile extension past the end of the East Hill Recway that currently runs along Cascadilla Creek.
    - The Dryden Rail Trail will go through Varna, Freeville, Dryden, and beyond (in the form of the Jim Schug Trail, which connects to the Finger Lakes Trail just east of Hammond Hill). The rail trail could be the site for a new half marathon or other race if the club desired, but regardless would be a great training venue, plus an off-road commuting option for cyclists.
    - The board should consider whether to support this effort; if yes, assign some funds to next year's budget.
  - Presentation by Bob Beck:
    - The last train went through on the Dryden railroad in the 1970s, with the track subsequently torn up. The railroad company offered the railbed to the town of Dryden, but the town declined. In 1982 the town attorney bought the railbed in his own name for \$24K, put a sewer-and-water easement on the full length of the railbed, then sold each parcel (48 of them) to adjacent landowners. In the late 1980s/early 1990s, Jim Schug (who was town supervisor of the time) had the dream of reacquiring the full length of the trail; the northeast part was reconstructed over time, which became the Jim Schug Trail. Over the past three years, there has been cooperation from the town board, leading to the Dryden

Rail Trail Task Force, which is solidly bipartisan and has been very active for the past two years.

- The 48 parcels are owned by 36 different owners. A permanent trail easement agreement—allowing for public maintenance and access forever—has been signed or pledged by almost all of the landowners, which reflects a much better outcome than anticipated before the project began.
- The trail goes from Game Farm Road through Varna, Etna, Freeville, into the Village and Dryden and on to the Jim Schug Trail: 10.5 miles from the Town of Ithaca at Game Farm Road to Village of Dryden.
- The Task Force has received a grant from New York State.
  - The grant will pay back all money spent by the Town if there is sufficient volunteer effort introduced.
- The Game Farm promised an easement about a year ago along the old railbed; there are two trestles over Cascadilla Creek that will need to be rehabilitated, and there is considerable clearing needed there. The easement is not in place yet, but the expectation is that the state will follow through soon.
- The trail goes over the F.H. Fox Bridge over NYS Route 366; there has been considerable controversy over who owns the bridge, but it has now been determined that the Town will take legal possession of the bridge.
- In short, the trail is moving forward, and it will be a great resource for the region for recreational and nonmotorized uses.
- Ultimately, the goal is for a stone dust surface (like the Black Diamond Trail, which is owned and was built by the State Parks), but initially there will be a usable cinder-and-gravel surface until sufficient funds become available.
- Crossing NYS Route 13 will be a challenge; there is current exploration of a bridge over or tunnel under the highway.
- The Dryden Rail Trail will be a multiuse trail.
- What role does the club want to play?
  - FLRC would be willing to measure the trail (quarter miles).
  - Remaining is the question of whether the club would pay for markers and whether the club would do the actual installation of mile markers.
- There is a work day this coming Saturday in Freeville and at George Road that anyone is welcome to participate in.
  - Steve will forward the info to the FLRC email list.
- The next monthly meeting of the Dryden Rail Trail Task Force is this coming Monday at the Dryden DPW; all such meetings are open to the public.
- There is considerable information available on the Town of Dryden website; look for the Rail Trail Task Force pages (<http://dryden.ny.us/board-commission-list/rail-trail-task-force>).
  - Tonya will work with Bob on a blog post for the FLRC website.
- Review of what falls under the purview of a Race Director
  - In the lead-up to the Skunk Cabbage Classic races, there was commentary on the email list for FLRC board members that was a cause of concern, leading to the present discussion of appropriate avenues for feedback and suggestions.
    - The specific issue was not paying to open Teagle Hall and make showers/bathrooms available to people racing the HM or 10K; the problem was the tone taken in the initial email that raised the matter.
  - The goal is to create a mechanism for feedback/suggestions that doesn't feel like "blaming and shaming" of a race director on the board list.
    - Feedback is good, but it should always be done respectfully.
    - It is proposed that in the event of any disrespect directed toward a race director or board member by a member of the club administration, the individual being disrespectful will be removed from the privilege of communicating through official board/RD channels.
  - It is possible to create a code of conduct for use of the various club mailing lists.
    - Tonya and Adam will draft a preliminary code of conduct to bring to the board for review and revision.

## **Current Events Reports & Business (6:23)**

- Financial Report—Mike Allinger
  - Mike presents the report as per the materials distributed.
  - Discussion about funds to donate to the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.
    - The budget specifies a donation of \$500 to the FLTC for 2018.
- Update on Eat and Run with FLRC Social Runs—Tonya Engst
  - The Eat and Run leader—Vicki Brous—hasn't been responding to Tonya's emails. The first event took place in March, which went fine. The second, to our knowledge, did not take place, nor the third, which had been initially scheduled to take place during the Skunk Cabbage races.
    - Tonya has posted on the website that the upcoming events are on hold.
  - The FLRC Social Runs are going nicely. Lots of people are showing up and having fun.
    - Tonya would like to follow RRCA guidelines and provide Shelly with two first aid kits, one to have in her car and one to distribute to another run leader; Gary will provide them from club equipment.
    - Shelly is only interested in doing Black Diamond Trail runs; Tonya would like to spread out and do the Tour of Tompkins scenario.
      - For the Tour of Tompkins, there will be a need for a considerable group of volunteers, to lead, to sweep, etc., and to reliably show up when they commit to being there and doing the specified task.
      - Tonya desires input on what are the "best runs" in the area.
      - The sense of the board is for Tonya to explore the idea.
- Review of RD Dinner—Gary McCheyne
  - 29 people attended. Everyone had a good time.
  - It is suggested to add some structure to encourage discussion of best practices and troubleshooting regarding directing races.
- Review of Annual Meeting—Mickie Sanders-Jauquet
  - 76 people RSVP'd for the annual meeting. It was a good event. The idea is to hold the 2019 annual meeting again at Joe's Restaurant.
  - For the volunteer picnic this year, Mickie wishes to continue with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary/history theme.
- Girls on the Run Update—Mickie Sanders-Jauquet
  - Moravia has two teams, BJM has one team, and Lansing has one team.
  - There will be four teams, with \$3000 distributed across them, as in the previously passed 2018 budget.
- Coach Certification Meeting—Mickie Sanders-Jauquet
  - Attendance for the program was full and instructors were great.
  - Upcoming coaching certification events: Mother's Day weekend in Saratoga Springs, and in the fall in the western part of the state.

## **Vice-President's Reports & Business (7:00)**

Trails—Gary McCheyne

- Thom B is the next race on tap.

Road—Alan Lockett

- Skunk Cabbage Classic
  - There were 348 finishers in the 10K and 625 finishers in the HM.
  - There is an upcoming debrief meeting to learn what went well and what might go better in the future.

Track—Adam Engst

- Nothing new until summertime

**Committee Reports & Business (7:01)**

Membership—Shelly Marino

•

Programming—Gary McCheyne

•

Marketing—Adam Engst

•

Web Presence—

- Adam asks how much is budgeted for the website.

Equipment—Gary McCheyne

•

Volunteer—Mickie Sanders-Jauquet

•

Scholarship—?

•

Governance—?

•

**Good of the Order (7:02)**

Gary moves to adjourn at 7:02 pm; seconded. Approved.

**Next Board Meeting: *May 9, 2018***