

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the November 11, 2017 Meeting

The meeting held at the Grantville Holiday Inn was called to order at 2 p.m. by President Rich Rock after it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance.

Those present were PHA Officers: President Rich Rock, Vice President Dave Merritt, Treasurer John Pitman and acting Secretary Gordon Wise. SCCA Regional Representatives: Kurt Eikenberg, Don McLaughlin, Grace Huntzinger, Dale Gogel, Mike Ancas, plus Representative Alternates: Jen and Don DeHart, Steve Lewis, and Timm Murphy. Members: Tom Wuellette, Nancy Lewis, Mark Aubele Mike Robinson, Trevor Filipowicz, Glenn Hoffman, Jim Crnkovic, Tony Preston, Dave Cutchins, Thor Pitman, Ed Gregra, Ray Kochin, Jared Frye, Richard Kase, Nelson Kase, Matt Rowe, George Witman, Ted Theodore, Donna Summer, Mike Axarle, Dillon Axarlis, Jane Stinsmen, John Stinsmen, Rick Terrill and Tom Knorr.

Prior to the formal order of business, President Rock announced that Cannon Roberts resigned as PHA Secretary, and subsequently, he appointed Gordon Wise to act in that capacity until the officers to serve for 2018 were elected.

Minutes of the previous meeting – in view of no recommended additions or corrections - upon a Trevor Filipowicz motion with a second from Thor Pitman - the minutes of the March 18, 2017 were approved.

Treasurer's report – The beginning balance in 2017 as reported at our January 21 meeting was \$7334.28. Treasurer John Pitman distributed a detailed copy of the current year's income and expenditures. Currently, the PHA bank balance totals \$18,746.06 that includes \$4506.00 event assessment income, \$7,860 banquet money from attendees and \$525 in miscellaneous income. Expenditures that include printing, website fee, trophies, banner purchase and banquet charges are estimated due to the fact that all bills have not yet been received as of this time. Best estimates for banquet expenses are about \$7,500.00; trophies \$1,100; printing \$217.45 and website \$189. John believes, however, that our post banquet balance will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$ 11,218.00. A motion from Kurt Eikenberg with a second from Matt Rowe for acceptance of the Treasurer's report was approved.

Audit Committee – Mike Robinson and John Stinsmen volunteered and were approved to serve as the year-end PHA audit committee.

Critique of the 2017 season – President Rock indicated that overall the PHA season was good. There were a total of 210 different drivers competing in our eight events, each with a good number of entrants including numerous new novices. There also seemed to be a greater number of volunteer corner workers at events. Rich commented on what he felt was a "nice atmosphere" at events.

Spring Jefferson – although the event was considered successful, several competitors complained about drivers cutting in line and starting out-of-order ignoring the pods where drivers organize themselves in groups of three based upon previous timed runs. Apparently no one was directing traffic leading to the starting line. This proved a problem for the starter who needs to determine precisely how much space to allow between cars when adjacent cars in line possessed vastly different times from one another. Theoretically, the pod system should work well when each pod of three cars with similar times line up toward the start line in order from the fastest to slowest times. The discussion continued at length focusing upon problems such as what to do with novice drivers who have no previous timed runs. It was decided that as a group we should continue to refine the starting procedure at Jefferson in order to get the maximum number of runs possible. Perhaps we should look at starting cars by defined run groups?

Weatherly – both events were well run and highly successful with excellent driver attendance – 188 total drivers. The Weatherly Hillclimb Association every year continues to improve its physical facilities. They are currently in the process of purchasing an additional tract of land on the east side of the road from behind the start line - adjacent to their existing land upon which the food tent and large overhang structure sits - upward to the back yard of the house at the top of the hill. They plan to clear most of the new purchase for parking. The Weatherly Hillclimb Association is currently having a disagreement with NEPA – the SCCA Region that sanctions the hill climb event. It seems that NEPA wants to charge the Association a \$5 per driver assessment to approve the SCCA sanction. Weatherly has refused to pay the NEPA stating that the Region does nothing at all to support the event. Apparently NEPA has been trying to levy a per- driver assessment for the past several years for events within their SCCA jurisdiction and negotiations between the two groups have failed to arrive at an agreement even after a meeting with Jack Burrows, SCCA Area Director. The Weatherly Hillclimb Association does not want to charge drivers for this fee. To date no agreement has been reached. At today's meeting an informal show of hands poll was taken as to whether drivers would be willing to have an additional \$5 assessment attached to their registration fee. Results were almost unanimous regarding willingness to pay.

Giants Despair – Giants was quite successful and reached a new earmark for driver attendance with 111 participating competitors. The Giants Despair Hillclimb Association continues to make significant physical improvements each year for which Jack Danko , Association President was recognized and honored by being given the Weatherly Hillclimb Association Hall of Fame Award. It was noted that like Weatherly, Giants Despair Hillclimb also resides within NEPA's geographical boundary and was given the same directive regarding a \$5 assessment as Weatherly. Recently, however, Giants Despair Hillclimb Association reached an agreement with NEPA and Giants sanction will be approved.

Duryea – Blue Mountain Region operates both hill climbs on Mt. Penn in Reading. Pagoda was well attended by drivers and was successful despite the rain. With the attendance at an all-time high, drivers seem to be becoming adjusted to cramped spaces.

At Duryea the 110 drivers had five runs compared to typically six. There were some repeated problems with spectators in unauthorized areas as well as “downed” equipment. And, as a result of an unusual wind event, leaves and other debris covered much of the roadway. Fortunately, Reading City employees worked almost all night to clean the roadway for Sunday's race while doing a fabulous job so appreciated by all in attendance. There were problems with accommodating all the drivers who wished to enter. Far more drivers than spaces for cars caused registration to close almost immediately. Discussion ensued related to ways to expedite cars so everyone can have more runs. Among the ideas offered were centered on novice runs, etc. A new organization, the Mt. Penn Preserve has been formed that intends to make improvements in the area - including partially removing the island next to the Pagoda - to improve parking, etc.

Polish Mountain – Polish Mountain also experienced a welcomed increase in driver numbers with 81 entries. Members in attendance suggested that the event – as always – was well run in every respect. The food was excellent. Someone remarked that it was the “best ever.” Steel Cities organizers say that they continue to welcome feedback from participants.

Shenandoah – many drivers seem to enjoy driving on the Shenandoah road course at Summit Point and would welcome driving there again. The only perceived problem at the Labor Day weekend event was that they would like to have more runs. Suggestions for getting more laps in the future were to run it more like the hill climbs in which a car would start upon a green light, run until it reaches a finish line, then exit the course at a point well before the start line. Members in attendance seem to agree that drivers may get more runs this way and are interested in pursuing this idea. Vice President Dave Merritt indicated that he would bring this topic up at our next meeting and, perhaps again at the driver's meeting at the Jefferson event where there would be a greater number of drivers in attendance. Lastly, Rich Rock stated that Summit Point officials have not yet contacted us regarding the cost of Shenandoah track rental for 2018.

2018 Schedule – It was suggested that we eliminate Rose Valley from the 2018 schedule. Rose Valley was listed on the PHA event calendar beginning in 2015, and in every year since then PHA officials found it difficult to work with area fire department personnel. As a result, each year the event had to be cancelled. Recently, Larry Long an SCCA course official drove to the hill, inspected it, then pronounced it unacceptable due to its deteriorated condition. Upon a Mike Robinson motion, with a second from Mark Aubele, approval for Rose Valley’s cancellation was approved.

Spring Jefferson.....May 26-27	Polish Mountain.....August 4-5
Spring Weatherly.....June 9-10	Duryea.....August 18-19
Pagoda.....June 23-24	Fall Shenandoah.....September 1-2
Giants Despair.....July 7-8	Fall Weatherly.....September 15-16

2018 Supps/Classes – National requested that we rework Time Trial specs. As a result Rich Rock and Dave Merritt distributed changes to the Street Mod Extreme class for Time Trial competition. After discussion, approval was given upon a Tom Wuellette motion with a second by Mark Aubele. Last year, we voted on a Time Trial five year expiration for all SFI and FIA SCCA approved belts and harness combinations. This year, for Time Trial cars, we are required to follow SCCA road race belt rules which state: SFI belts will expire on June 30 or December 31 of the year punched into the belt. FIA belts are good for five years and will expire on the date stamped into the tag sewn on the belt. Upon a motion by Rich Rock, with a second from Gordon Wise, approval was given to follow the national SCCA road racing belt expiration specs.

Timing – we will print out cards to distribute to drivers and spectators with information regarding on-line timing information for phones.

New Business – the 2018 PHA banquet will be held again at the Grantview Holiday Inn – the date to be announced later. The next PHA meeting is planned for January 27 at the Canal Street Pub in Reading, PA with an alternate date of February 10.

Nomination of Officers – Election teller Rick Kase opened the meeting for the nomination of officers to serve the PHA for 2018.

Rich Rock was the only person nominated for President. Upon a motion from Nancy Lewis with a second from Mike Robinson the nomination for President was closed.

Dave Merritt was the only person nominated for Vice President. Upon a motion from John Pitman with a second from Glenn Hoffman the nomination for Vice President was closed.

Gordon Wise was the only person nominated for Secretary. Upon a motion from Tom Knorr with a second from John Pitman the nomination for Secretary was closed.

John Pitman was the only person nominated for Treasurer. Upon a motion from Rick Kase with a second from Kurt Eikenberg the nomination for Treasurer was closed.

The election for PHA Officers will take place at the next PHA Meeting on January 27, 2018.

A motion for adjournment at 3:40 p.m. was approved upon a motion from Tom Knorr with a second from John Pitman.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, Acting Secretary