

# Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

## Minutes of the December 5, 2020 Meeting

Due to the State of Pennsylvania's effort to deal with the current Covid-19 pandemic, mandatory restrictions concerning group activities forced us to gather together virtually as a Zoom meeting. This meeting was held on December 5, 2020. It was called to order by President Rich Rock at approximately 6:20 PM, after which it was determined that a quorum of SCCA Regional Representatives were in attendance.

President Rich Rock informed those in attendance that long time, highly respected PHA member Nelson Kase passed away a few weeks ago. Rich discussed the many, many valued contributions Nelson unselfishly made to the PHA over a period of well more than two decades. He could be seen at every formal and informal PHA gathering offering both his physical assistance and expertise for as long as any one of us can remember. In fact, serving as our event timer at every event we could not have ever sent even one car up the hill without him. In addition, Nelsen was our webmaster, records recorder and "keeper of the faith." He certainly will be sincerely honored. Rich suggested that "We take a moment of silence as we remember him."

**Officers present** were Rich Rock, President; John Pitman, Vice President; Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer and Gordon Wise, Secretary. **Regional Representatives:** Dale Gogel, John Felten, Joe Whiteley, Rick Terrill, Sue Salsburg, Dave Arron, Don McLaughlin and Chuck Christ. **Alternate Representative** Steve Lewis. **PHA members:** Nancy Lewis, Trevor Filipowicz, Rick Johnson, Kristen Hack, Tom Knorr, Timm Murphy, Patti Murphy, Adam Weaver, Don Kennedy, Donna Robinson, Mike Robinson, Eli Sharp, Vince Wiczorek, Gibby Bozicevich, Kris Reid, Kacey Rovere-Avril, Jeff Avril, Linda Young, Mary Anne Fieux, Tom Wuellette, Joe Specht, Rick Kase, Ray Kochin, Mike Daley and Sherwin Pacquette.

**Minutes of the February 2020 Meeting - Minutes** of all PHA meetings from 2012 to date are - and have been - available on the PHA website. Minutes of our February 2020 meeting were added to this list last March.

Approximately one week prior to today's meeting, all our Regional Representatives were emailed copies of the February 2020 meeting. Since there were no additions nor corrections from the floor, upon a motion from Rick Terrill with a second from Tom Knorr, the minutes of the February 2020 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Grace Huntzinger presented a thorough, comprehensive oral report that mirrored her written treasury statement. In summation: as of December 1, 2020, PHA's total income for the year is \$3,420.57. Total expenses have been \$947.12. Net income stands at \$2,473.45. Total current assets are \$18,878, with a \$18,778.31 balance in the PHA checking account and \$100 still owed for a 2019 Banquet Program advertisement. There are no current liabilities. Upon a motion from John Felten with a second from Steve Lewis, the treasurer's report was approved.

**Audit Committee** – Mike Robinson and Nancy Lewis have agreed to serve as the audit committee for the calendar year 2020. The committee generally meets on the day of the first PHA meeting of the new year.

**Critique of the 2020 season** – All of the PHA hill climbs were cancelled for the 2020 season due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, and the restrictions imposed upon group activities by the government officials of the states of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Only our two track events at Summit Point Motorsports Park located in the state of West Virginia were somehow permitted to be held.

**Shenandoah** was run as a Track Sprint. There was no on-line registration primarily to make things easier to refund the entry fees should the group gathering restrictions related to Covid-19 change and not permit the event to be held. The event enjoyed good weather. The food was good and well prepared. Saturday activity on course generally went well. Not so on Sunday when numerous on-track incidents occurred.

**Jefferson** was rescheduled and held on October 10 and 11. The event had a good turnout. Trevor Filipowicz indicated that drivers would have liked to have had more runs. However, the event ran slow because numerous drivers did not line up in “pods” causing delays in starting cars. Rather than running three cars simultaneously on track, it was somewhat common to see two cars or - sometimes only one - on track. This resulted in a real waste of track time for all involved. Kris Reid indicated that the “pod” system was not set up as well as it could because many drivers signed up at the last minute. If these drivers had signed up earlier, the group division would have been more accurate (and there may have been three groups). In addition, the PA system was not working well for the paddock area furthest away from the building, so drivers found it difficult to know when to line up. Several members in attendance offered suggestions for less waste of time at Jefferson next season. These include using shoe polish or colored stickers on windshields to designate class or run group. In addition, require that drivers line up earlier, and, if they miss their group, they in turn miss their run. It was suggested that we might consider running a larger group of cars on track and permitting passing. President Rock indicated however, that this type of event would require transponders in each car and a different timing system. In addition, numerous drivers have had, in the past, a strong resistance to any form of passing. It was suggested that we could consider running the event as a Track Sprint. President Rock indicated that drivers would be polled prior to next year’s event to see whether the current lapping format is still preferred over a Track Sprint, even though the Track Sprint format would allow more runs to be given.

**2021 Schedule -**

- Spring Jefferson.....May 29-30 Memorial Day Weekend
- Spring Weatherly.....June 12-13
- Pagoda.....June 26-27
- Giants Despair.....July 10-11
- Polish Mountain.....August 7-8
- Duryea.....August 21-22
- Fall Shenandoah.....September 4-5 Labor Day Weekend
- Fall Weatherly.....September 18-19

**2021 Supps/Classes -** Rich Rock indicated that to date he has heard nothing new from National regarding insurance and event fees. Since the meeting however, National has informed him that there will be no changes for next year. Kristen Hack proposed a PHA rules change concerning the Street Mod Class (SM). For a long time it has been known that all wheel drive 4 seater cars have a distinct advantage over 2 wheel drive cars that currently run in the same class. Kristen proposes that rear wheel drive 4 seat cars prepared to the Street Modified specifications run separately in their own class (SMR). The current SM, SMF and SSM classes will remain unchanged. Rear Wheel drive cars that run in SM prior to this change can continue to run in SM or move to the new SMR class. At the conclusion of the discussion someone remarked that it is surprising that it took until now for someone to propose the change. On a Trevor Filipowicz motion with a second from Steve Lewis, the motion was approved without dissent.

**Website and Timing –** Grace Huntzinger agreed to temporarily take over many of the responsibilities formerly administered by Nelson. These include all those of the PHA webmaster including billing, the forum and the PHA mailing list. Steve Lewis has agreed to step up as chief of timing with the initial assistance from Rick Kase. Steve will be looking for any help. Grace and Rick will meet with Steve to look over the equipment to assess what we have and then what we need.

**New business and non-agenda items** – Reserved car numbers will be carried over from 2020. The PHA equipment trailer needs repairs including a new hatch. Sherwin Pacquette suggested that the PHA should develop guidelines for media coverage. Rick Kase agreed stating that in the past there have been problems regarding negative un-authorized photo and written material that sometimes “painted” an inaccurate picture of PHA that appeared on Instagram, Facebook and other social media as well as in the press. Any public relations must have guidelines and media reporters should be required to check in to PHA officials for clearance prior to covering the event. Negative narratives and violent pictures that may be detrimental should not be approved.

John Felten reported that thanks to the support from Maryland Senator George Edwards, the entire surface of the old Route 40 hill climb route has recently been paved using state of the art material complete with new bonding agent. New asphalt takes time to cure, so the surface should be ready for our Polish Mountain event next August. In addition, millings have been laid down and rolled in a section of the paddock area.

**Banquet** – The PHA banquet has been scheduled to be held again at the Grantville Holiday Inn on Saturday, November 20, 2021.

**Nomination of PHA Officers** - Election Teller Rick Kase opened the floor for nominations for PHA Officers to serve for the 2021 calendar year. After no nominations were made from the floor, and, in view of the fact that after questioning, all present officers indicated that they would be willing to continue their service for 2021, Rick declared that nominations were now closed. Nominations will again be opened at the next PHA meeting to be held in January at which time the formal election will be held.

**Next meeting** - the next PHA meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom, assuming a traditional in person gathering is still not possible due to restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic. Zoom Meeting sign in details and instructions are posted on the PHA website.

President Rock declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, PHA Secretary