

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association
Minutes of the March 09, 2024, Organizational Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Rock at 1:00 PM, after which it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives was in attendance.

Officers: Rich Rock, President; Trevor Filipowicz, Vice President; Eli Sharp, Secretary; and Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer.

Regional Representatives: Dale Gogel, Glenn Hoffman, Don McLaughlin, Sue Salsburg*, Rick Terrill, Joe Whiteley, and Gordon Wise.

Alternative Representatives: Mike Daley, Don DeHart.

PHA members: Jeff Avril, Kacy Rovere-Avril, Melinda Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Clyde Blair, Gibby Bozicevich*, Frank Callhoun*, James Crocker, Dave Cutchins*, Joe Cyburt, Keith Gerhard*, Randy Hartinger, Crystal Hoegg, Matt Hoegg, Jeff Israel*, Kristen Israel*, Patty Johnson*, Rick Johnson*, Don Kennedy, Ray Kochin, Nancy Lewis, Tim Lewis*, Patti Murphy*, Timm Murphy*, Cory Michael, Kristie Reid*, Donna Robinson*, Mike Robinson, Jim Swift, Adam Weaver, Ursula Whistler, Vince Wieczorek, Gordon Wise, George Witman, Karen Witman.

[* participated on Zoom]

1. Meeting Rules Recap: Eli S recapped the meeting rules and process, and added a rule that phones should be placed on silent. She also asked everyone to please fill out the online survey (email, Facebook, website) for feedback on PHA meetings.

2. Treasurer's Report: Grace H reviewed the financials. There is one account receivable which was for a full-page advert in the banquet program, and that is still being requested.

There were no questions about the financial statements. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Matt Hoegg and seconded by Mike Robinson.

3. Treasurer's Audit Committee: Grace H requested the formation of the Audit Committee. Volunteers were requested to review the Treasurer's Report after the meeting. Nancy Lewis, Vincent Wieczorek and Mike Axarlis volunteered.

4. 2024 Schedule and Event Updates:

Carlisle Import Performance National Show: Gordon W stated that this is on the 10th and 11th of May. He said that we need cars and drivers and information on how to apply is on the website already. He will also send an email reminder at the end of March. Bill Norton is now coordinating the event, so people should please reach out to him.

Jefferson and Shenandoah: Rich R said that no other region or association was interested in taking on the operation of Shenandoah. BMR has signed a contract and made a non-refundable deposit for both Jefferson and for Shenandoah, so the venues are reserved. He said we still need additional donations, sponsors, and supporters. Crystal H and Kris R have volunteered to help with registration. BMR is not interested in losing money at Shenandoah. The plan is to open an early registration for Shenandoah and set a cutoff date in mid-July. If the money is not there by that date in July, the event will not happen. The Shenandoah deposit was \$870 and BMR is willing to take that loss if we have to cancel. If we cancel everyone will get all their registration money back. For entry fees BMR are targeting about \$300 for Jefferson, and about \$325 for Shenandoah. To boost registration, BMR decided a same driver second entry will get a 40% discount off the entry fee. That would also apply to Jefferson. Nancy L reiterated that for Jefferson and Shenandoah, we do accept the time trial classes and their safety rules. She said we would love to have more people, so put the word out. Rich R and Nancy L are working on an early registration opening for this event too. Tim Lewis messaged in the chat; he has interest from the WDCR SCCA Region director for Summit events. Rich R will contact Tim L directly to discuss.

Pagoda and Duryea: Rich R will be applying for the sanction and submitting the permit application to the city for Pagoda this coming week. If there is work on Skyline Drive, Rich R has a commitment from the city and from the manager for the city that they will accommodate sanctioned events.

Weatherly: Joe C stated that they were golden for the events. They have started collecting money for sponsorships and Fairway Subaru will once again be the main sponsor.

Banquet: Grace H stated that the banquet is on November 9th, at the same place as last year. The meeting will be at one o'clock. The block of rooms is already open for booking, but nothing is on the website about it yet. She would love to create a program like last year's but needs help with articles. The last thing she (and probably everyone else) wants is for her to write all the content. It would be great if people could start working on articles now, even though the banquet isn't until November. Putting the program together can be time consuming so the earlier she can get started, the better.

Proposed Reading Airport event: Rich R said that it looks like it's not likely to happen this year. He said we have a good relationship with the airport manager, who wants us to be on the site doing something, which could be an auto cross or a road

event. The uncertainty right now is that they're absorbing the operation of the North ramp and as a result, because of the transition this year, he hasn't gotten the approval from the airport. So, we probably will get something next year.

Other Options: Joe C talked about a hill he looked at and that he thought the road would be perfect. It is 1.1 miles long, and there's five homes on it. It is right near 443, which is a major road. The starting line would only be about an eighth of a mile from 443. There is a place to park cars at the bottom. Some don't think it would work because it's so close to that main artery. Carbon County Chamber and Pocono Mountain Visitor Bureau say they also have their eyes open looking for other options. If they see something, they will let him know. Joe C said that if we could find an area that would be suitable, they would help us promote it. Whatever contacts needed to be made they would also work with him. They are looking to get one more hill up in that area.

5. Proposed Changes to the Supps for 2024:

Gace H showed that on the PHA website, people can look at the 2024 PHA supplemental regulations. On page seven, people can see the revision history. Wording for PHA supplemental regulations has been updated to include the new SCCA rules. The updated wording also indicates that head and neck restraints are now required for this year. There is also updated GCR class listing and updated wording for street prepared vehicle classing. As discussed last meeting, Street Prepared continues to be frozen to 2022 solo rules, but vehicle prep shall adhere to the current SCCA rules. Also removed is reference to the time trials rules for special classes and added are some requirements about inclusion in the specials category for builds that are becoming popular; Miata and Corvette karts and other similar type builds. These need body panels to keep out debris. Also corrected is a typo in roll cage tubing specs. Mike R clarified these updates. The changes correspond to current SCCA rules. Mike asked if there were any questions, there were none.

There was discussion about safety gear expiration and whether head and neck restraints would have an expiry date. There was common agreement that any stated expiration date on gear should be followed. It was agreed the Supps Committee would meet to discuss manufacture date and SFI expiration and produce verbiage to be included in a revision to the PHA supplemental regulations.

6. Website and Social Media: Grace H said there were no changes to the website. She noted there is an announcement section at the bottom of the website that may look a little different on a phone, but it is a good place to go for updates. Also check Facebook. The link to sign up for email notifications is on the PHA Website under the menu option titled "Mailing List", and this is the best path for updates.

7. Timing: Nancy L asked if anybody wants to assist with timing setting up the equipment in the morning or doing the timing during the event. The people doing the setup don't have to be the same as those doing the timing. Drivers can help with set-up without taking time from them driving the event.

8. New Business / non agenda Items:

Nancy L asked if merchandise for PHA is going to be ordered for this year. Grace H suggested in addition to a new survey on the banquet, we send out another survey on the merchandise people want.

Joe C mentioned he was invited to an expo in Jim Thorpe for nonprofit groups. He will try to recruit some more corner workers and people to help with his event.

Rich R mentioned that Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz who has often spoken at the Reading Hillclimbs driver's meetings, has retired from her position as District 2 Councilwoman for Reading. She is also the president of the foundation for the Reading Pagoda. She remains active in the city and with all the work that's going to be happening up at the Pagoda over the next few years, she's going to still be around.

10. Meeting Wrap Up and Next Meeting:

Rich R then wrapped up the meeting. Eli S reminded everyone to please fill out the survey on PHA meetings and tell us what you want to see more or less of. She also said that we will use the same tool to send out a survey about the banquet and a survey about merchandising. Links to the surveys will be on the website and on the Facebook page.

The next meeting will be November 9th.

Rich asked for a motion to adjourn. It was raised by Matt Hoegg and seconded by Mike Robinson.

The Organizational Meeting was adjourned at around 2:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Eli Sharp
PHA Secretary