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# Meeting minutes

Monday, 04.13.2020

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## Board Attendees

Laura Turitz, *Treasurer*  
Nicky Asselin, *Secretary*  
Charlie Brown, *Vice President*  
Robert Tadlock, *President*

## Public Attendees

Ernest Saeger, Aaron Fletcher, Amy Hawf, Anthony Szuminski, Brian Ingoldsby, Bill Hoblitzell, Brian Hopkins, Caren Davis, David Russell, Halsey Lucas, Jamie, Jeff, Jeff Kerkove, Jesse Horton, Karen Joarchow, K. Bazan, Matt Lewis, Matthew Jones, Miles Henson, Ric Turmen, Robert Sonntag, Ryan, Ryan Spinks, Sam Chipkin, Sam Reichstein, Scott Schlosser, Todd, Tony, Dan Lambert, John Staight

## Call to Order

Zoom meeting, April 13th, 6:30pm

## Agenda

- Introduction to the new board members
  - Discuss VVMTA and HTC partnership
  - 2020 Plan for HTC
  - Meet Justin from the BLM
  - John Staight from the Town of Eagle
  - Directional trail signage
  - Discuss LG Tri with Brooke Skjonsky
  - Plan for finishing the Redneck Ridge extension
  - Bi-weekly trail work meetups
  - Misc
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- Questions

## Treasurer Report

\$16,820 currently in the bank with no immediate planned expenditures.

## Notes

### **BLM - Brian Hopkins**

Brian Hopkins with BLM spoke in place of Justin. Short introduction acknowledging his team and is also a biker who worked on Kokopelli Trail. Discussed closed trails, the role of BLM and HTC. The BLM stated that the winter closure extends through April 15th and trails open on the 16th. BLM relies on partners like HTC to educate on trail closures. HTC is not the enforcer but rather a group of advocates that educates on the importance of closed trails and partnership with BLM.

It's a unique year with public health orders and the desert being closed. BLM is using cameras and monitoring trail closures. Ticket issuance is up to rangers and they can discuss enforcing closures through tickets. Tickets are challenging with staff and follow through. Education and signage continue to be the best way to enforce closures.


Our community is coming together to educate and support closures. We reached over 25,000 people on Facebook. Hasley Lucas, with the Town of Eagle, is working with an Eagle Scout on his project to add more signs and gates. BLM will continue to partner with the town with more gates and better signage.

BLM to fix Buckhorn access gate.

Camping is only restricted where community gathering is a risk. There is no plan to close dispersed camping, including areas like Bellyache.

### **VVMTA and HTC Partnership**

HTC and VVMTA have partnered together to create one community to better leverage our collective resources throughout the eagle valley and with key land managers. The goal is to enable better communication and advocacy on more projects. We can now take volunteership to the next level with the full time support of the VVMTA executive director. HTC is not changing its mission but the membership now spans through both organizations. Rob is on the VVMTA board and will be the voice of Eagle and Gypsum. VVMTA brings a wealth of resources to the table from tools, mini-ex, contacts, partnerships, fundraising, volunteers, etc. HTC supporters and members will have the ability to donate directly to HTC for localized fundraising. VVMTA is an IMBA chapter and uses their



membership platform and database management system. They take \$12 of \$39 to administer the platform and the rest goes to the local trail chapter.

### **HTC Strategic Plan**

HTC is creating a strategic plan to drive the organization. The plan includes:

- Board meetings every other month with 4-5 community meetings
- Community outreach and education
- Bi-weekly trail work days
- Currently working on 2020 Master Plan document
- Will be sending a survey via email, Facebook, and Blog to assess trail priorities
- Current trail projects: East Eagle Planning, Complete “Redneck Extension”, Will’s Thrill improvements, World’s Greatest re-route, pulled Dirt Surfer’s love child into the network, add features, make it more sustainable
- The general consensus is that Gypsum could use more attention.

### **Directional Trail Signage**

BLM approved directional signage on the following trails:

- Pool & Ice
- Dirt Surfer
- Will's Thrill (new trail that came into the system with the EA last fall)
- Elmers
- World's Greatest

Hikers, bikers and horses can still go up directional trails but there is directional signage at the top and bottom. Next step is signage and public communication.

### **John Staight- Eagle Open Space Coordinator**

John has been here a long time witnessing the progression from rag tag trails to the mountain biking destination it is. John works closely with BLM and other key stakeholders. Funding for trails and open space comes from a \$2 per person per night tax for people that stay at our motels and is his only funding. The town has contributed to Brush Creek Valley Open Space, wildlife issues, dog park, Haymaker trail, Pool and Ice descent, purchase of Abrams, and building of LOV Connection. John is able to play a critical role in getting permitting and cutting the bureaucratic red tape in order for a trail to be built. He has one seasonal summer employee- Halsey Lucas - been with the town for 4 years. Historically, John has been short staffed. He supports the idea of a survey to highlight priorities as he gets a lot of input from various stakeholders including hikers, bikers, CPW, BLM, hunters, moms with kids riding bikes. Please be aware that the Town has to consider multiple interests when executing projects so please consider everyone before speaking out on social media. As a group, we need to support legislation for improved funding.

### **LG Tri- Brooke Skjonsky**

The LG Tri is Saturday July 11, 2020 honoring Laura Genelin and benefiting the Vail Valley Charitable Fund. To better support community involvement, this year’s event will include a



Friday night fun ride called “The Tour de Haymaker.” Groups will be beginner/intermediate and advanced rides with beer, music and food after. They need 6 volunteers to help out with the ride.

### **Redneck Extension Update**

With covid restrictions in place HTC is going to do mini ex work and then plan a volunteer day once we have the go ahead on group gatherings. In the meantime, please submit naming options for the new trail.

### **Trail Work Days**

- Plans to have regular bi-weekly meetups this summer on Tuesday nights
- Will keep track of maintenance backlog so email issues to HTC
- HTC will lead meetup and have tools. Quiet Kat can support remote trail work with ebikes.
- On hold until covid restrictions lifted
- Sanctioned trail work days should be communicated to town. Individual work can continue on maintenance work.

## **Action Items**

Follow up with Justin at BLM to fix access gate on Buckhorn

Continued work on 2020 master document

Solicit naming options for Redneck Extension

Create survey for public input on trail priorities

Finalize directional trail signage needs and communicate to public

Continue to monitor Eagle County Public Health orders as they evolve and communicate impact on trails, volunteering and events.