

General Membership Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President Bernie Molloy
Vice President Susan Donnelly
Secretary Cathy Chase
Treasurer Cathy Scott
Past President Helen Harvey (absent)

Board Members:

Jamie Canon
Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden

Administrative Members:

Heidi Hansen

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Molloy at 7:00 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

None.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

November 12, 2019 General Meeting minutes – Karen Hayden motioned to approve and Willie Brusin seconded. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer’s Report – Cathy Scott

Checkbook balance as of January 14, 2020 is \$40,358.78. Cathy provided full financial report, copy of checking account statement, credit card statement, and reconciliation reports (total 13 pages). Insurance was major expenditure. Laura Duncan motioned and Karen Hayden seconded to approve treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report – submitted by Mary Johnson and read by Bernie Molloy

1. **Lone Grave Map** – Meeting with Paul Hart on November 26, 2019 took place to discuss the suggested changes to the Lone Grave map trail names and connector trails not indicated on the map. Paul was agreeable to all suggestions on the user map. Trail descriptions and lengths are the next items to be worked on. Paul placed a sign order so there will be ample inventory when the trail signing takes place. The trails will be named and numbered. There is also a plan to place small maps at various locations along the trail with “you are here” designations.
2. **Trail work projects** – Projects being considered this year are: 1) a reroute on a section of the Dascombe trail, 2) a reroute and repair of the Pioneer Trail between Chalk Bluff and Upper Burlington, 3) discussion and repair of the Pioneer Trail below Highway 20 west of Skillman, 4) Trail bed work on the Hallelujah Trail.
3. **Highway 20 Realignment** – GCTC is staying apprised of the progress of the curve realignment of Highway 20, especially where it will affect the Pioneer Trail in the Steephollow Creek area. Paul Hart has been made aware of the need for water available for horses at Steephollow Creek where Caltrans will probably install a culvert. *Comment from Laura Duncan:* Work to be done in 2021 may affect the poker ride; Forest Service has offered use of White Cloud campground as a staging area. Paul Hart was also made aware that equestrians still use the “old” Pioneer Trail on

the northwest side of Highway 20. He was happy to know that the trail is still used. The Forest Service has no plans to abandon that trail.

4. **Grouse Ridge Area Trails** – GCTC is aware that work needs to be done on the Bull Pen Lake Trail (between Loney Meadow and the Lindsey Lake Trail). The area needs a NEPA report for trail rerouting. According to Paul Hart, the NEPA report is not a high priority at this time.
5. **Motorcycles on the Pioneer Trail** – Nevada County Woods Riders are aware of reports of motorcycles on the Pioneer Trail near Skillman. It was determined that there were some areas that needed signs indicating that it is a non motorized trail. Scott Rabeneau of the Woods Riders obtained “no motorcycle” signs and placed them on the Pioneer Trail where it is close to Hwy 20 at Omega Road and in Skillman near the campground road. *Comment from Karen Hayden:* January 23, 5 p.m. meeting at Forest Service office on Coyote Street in Nevada City listed in newspaper as fire plan meeting; it is also (not advertised) a meeting to discuss a land management plan which would include motorized and non motorized use.

F. Old Business

1. None.

G. New Business

1. **President’s Address** – Bernie stated that one of his objectives is to continue to foster the good working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service. He acknowledged Mary Johnson for being an outstanding liaison. GCTC is “all about the trails,” primarily for equestrians but also for hikers and bikers. He encouraged members to participate in work days for maintenance of the trails.
2. **New Member Social Taco Night** – Bernie said the next new member social will be on February 11 at 7 p.m. (following BOD meeting at 6 p.m.) and will be a taco night. Please r.s.v.p. to Debbie Molloy. This will be an opportunity for new members to meet board members. Current “old” members also welcome.
3. **Buddy Program to Pair with New Members** – Susan Donnelly is heading the effort to develop a list of mentors for newer members. Bernie encouraged all current members to volunteer to be mentors as this is a very good way to meet new people and encourage participation in our activities. This is not a finished program yet but hope to have ready by the time of the new member social. Helen Crawford encouraged members to reach out on the GCTC Facebook page.
4. **GCTC Calendar** – There have been some problems printing using the formatting on the website. Bernie suggested posting the calendar in several forms: a) body of an email, b) pdf, c) in the newsletter. He will also put out a sign-up sheet for members who wish to receive newsletter with calendar via USPS mail.
5. **Soliciting New Projects** – Many ideas discussed for membership, projects, and fund raising. During County Fair and Draft Horse Classic events at the fairgrounds, GCTC could have a booth near the horse barn selling carrots, alfalfa cubes, etc. Food booth at fairgrounds mentioned as another fundraising possibility although very labor intensive. Thoughts about how to spend money in GCTC coffers included installing benches at scenic outlooks. Willie Brusin suggested establishing a relationship with a paid crew which could be called in for the more difficult trail work, and Karen Hayden noted that there are organizations/

businesses that are already approved by USFS. Sharon Silver made suggestion that we work with some of the youth groups who need community service projects.

Sonja Conklin asked what a work day is like and what is involved. Bernie described as a day starting with donuts, and GCTC provides all the needed tools and member tasks include cutting branches, chain sawing small downed trees, raking, cleaning, cutting back overhanging brush, followed by lunch. Time commitment is four hours or less and distances walked one mile or less. Also, Debbie can always use help with the lunch prep and set up. Some people bring their horses and ride after the work party, and sometimes members participate in a ride and clip to clear overhanging vegetation. Susan Donnelly will write an article to be included in the next newsletter outlining work day efforts.

6. *Refreshments* – Bernie thanked Mary Anne Jorgenson for five years of providing refreshments at all the general meetings. Now we need a new volunteer. Costs are reimbursed by GCTC. Helen Crawford suggested that if this is more of a commitment than one person wants to undertake, we could have sign ups to cover one meeting at a time. Email Bernie if interested.
7. *Top Hand Award* – Laura Duncan presented the award of special recognition to Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro for their exemplary role in volunteering. This is an award voted on by the GCTC membership.
8. *Guest Speaker Introduced* – Trinity Minty (Pilates / Integrative Movement Facilitation) to speak following the meeting on “Staying Saddle Ready.”

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary