

# NEW YORK STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

## *Preamble*

We, the members of the New York State Trails Council, a citizens' advisory board (hereinafter the Council), organized pursuant to the New York Statewide Trails Symposium held November 14 and 15, 1980 in Albany, New York, to discuss issues and exchange information, ideas, and perspectives on trail planning in New York State, do hereby adopt these by-laws.

## *By-Laws*

### Article I - Purpose and Objectives

1. To advocate trail interests to all levels of government and to the public;
2. To provide a reliable source of information on trail-based recreation;
3. To coordinate efforts to develop, construct, and maintain recreational trails;
4. To foster trail user ethics; and
5. To provide a forum for mediating differences among trail-user groups.

### Article II – Membership

1. The Council shall consist of delegates from trail-user groups. The members of the Organizational Committee shall be charter delegates, representing the following user groups:
  - All-Terrain Vehicles (added 3/19/1994)
  - 4-Wheel Drive Vehicles (added 3/19/1994)
  - Hiking
  - Equine Interests
  - Nordic Skiing (Cross Country)
  - Off Road Bicycling (modified 3/19/2011)
  - On Road Bicycling (modified 3/19/2011)
  - Running
  - Snowmobiling
  - Snowshoeing
  - Trail-Bike Riding (Motorized)
  - Water Trails (added 3/19/1994)
2. Interested user-groups, with significantly unique trail needs, not represented on the Council, may petition for inclusion and may be admitted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Council. Once admitted to the Council it is the group's responsibility to remain active and participate through regular meeting attendance. Any group unrepresented at three consecutive meetings will receive notice that meeting attendance is required for continued representation on the Council. The notice will be sent via Mail and E-Mail to both the delegates and the representative's user group of

record. Failure to be represented at the following regular meeting will result in removal of the group from the Council. Any previously removed user group may again, without prejudice, petition the Council for representation.

3. Each user group shall be entitled to be represented by a maximum of three delegates, to be chosen by the group. Delegates will represent trail users and not commercial interests. Interested persons may petition the Group for one of the three delegate positions. If no vacancies exist it is up to the User Group to decide who would best represent their interests.

If a disagreement regarding representation should arise, and be incapable of settlement within the User Group, a Challenger may petition the Council to intervene on their behalf. Challengers are invited to state their cases, in writing, to the Council. The Council will consider factors such as regional diversification and persons represented, and may replace a delegate with the Challenger, by a two-thirds affirmative vote.

4. The State Commissioners of the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and of the Department of Transportation, and the Executive Director of the New York State Canal Corporation may designate observers to attend meetings of the Council; they may participate in discussion but not offer motions or vote. The Council may invite representatives of other governmental entities or concerned parties to attend any meeting.

### Article III – Meetings

1. A minimum of two (2) regular meetings of the Council shall be held annually. Notice of all meetings shall be provided to all representatives not less than 30 days prior to each meeting. Each notice shall include a tentative agenda, components of which must be submitted to OPRHP not less than 45 days prior to each meeting.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by petition of at least three user groups.
3. A quorum shall consist of a majority of user groups.
4. Each user group will have one vote, which may be expressed in a fraction if the delegates do not agree on a single vote. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, all decisions will be by a majority vote of the user groups present and voting.
5. Should it prove necessary, the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority for all questions of procedure and debate.

### Article IV –Officers

1. The officers shall be the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation will provide administrative and secretarial support until such time as the Commissioner or the Council deems otherwise.
2. Officers shall be elected annually from among the delegates. They will serve for one year from the date of election and are eligible for re-election.
3. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council and exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Council. The Vice-Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair.
4. The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee before the regular meeting next preceding the meeting at which the election will be held. The Committee shall report to OPRHP the names of the nominees not later than 45 days prior to the election. Nominees must accept nomination. Any delegate may nominate candidates either by mail 45 days in advance or from the floor at the meeting.
5. The Chair may appoint other committees deemed advisable for the conduct of the business of the Council.
6. Only the Chair is authorized to speak for the Council, and all public statements must be consistent with the stated policies of the Council.
7. The Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation will keep the minutes of the Council meetings, will issue notices of meetings, will, after consultation with the Chair, prepare an agenda for all regular meetings, will keep a record of the names, residence, and business addresses of each Council member, and perform such other duties as may be required by the Council.

### *Amendments*

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of User Groups present and voting, provided that notice of the substance of a proposed amendment has been given at the previous meeting and with the meeting notice.

1. As revised by the Council 15 January 1994 and adopted 19 March 1994, three additional user groups are now members of the Council; All Terrain Vehicles, 4-Wheel Drive Vehicles, Water Trails
2. Article II, Section 5, Amended on 15 October, 1994 to include the New York State Canal Corporation as a governmental representative.
3. As revised by the Council 18 April 1998, one additional user group is now a member of the Council; In-Line Skating
4. As revised by the Council 11 September 2004, the In-line Skating user group was deleted from the list of members of the Council.
5. As revised by the Council 29 January 2005, the Horseback Riding (Equestrian) user group was renamed the Equine Trail Interest group to better represent both riding and carriage driving as well as non-equine equids (Mules).
6. 2005: Revised Article II – Membership and revised voting procedures, eliminated individual delegate votes, all voting is now by User Group.
7. As revised by the Council 19 March 2011, the Bicycling user group was separated into two user groups: Off Road Bicycling and On Road Bicycling.