

THE GENESEE VALLEY HIKING CLUB

BYLAWS

2013

## I. MISSION STATEMENT

This organization shall be known as the Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC). Its purpose shall be the congenial association of those who enjoy both the physical and social aspects of hiking and the out-of-doors. It shall be non-political, non-partisan, and non-sectarian. We respect and protect our environment and have as a motto, "Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints".

## II. MEMBERSHIP

A membership includes one or two adults plus any children living in the same household.

Membership is open to those who agree with and abide by the mission of the GVHC as stated in Article I above. All members present at the annual meeting may vote, except those under the age of eighteen.

## III. GUESTS

Guests may attend hikes as often as desired. They are not required to be a member, but must agree with, and abide by, the purpose of the GVHC as stated in Article I above.

## IV. DUES AND EXPENSES

Members of GVHC must pay annual dues. Dues shall become due in January of each year. The amount of the dues may be changed by majority vote at the annual meeting. The GVHC Executive Committee will try to contact anyone who has not paid by the middle of the year, just to remind them.

Expenses may be paid out of the treasury with approval of the Executive Committee. Hike expenses for food, transportation, or lodging, shall be paid by those attending the hike or event, work hikes excepted. There shall be no liability on the part of the members, as a whole, for hike expenses or the conduct of hikes. Expenses for gatherings of the whole membership may be drawn from the treasury or assessed on those attending; as the Executive Committee may decide.

There shall be no special assessments. No member is bound by any act of any officer or committee, or other member(s) beyond their dues for the time they are a member. There shall be no power in officers, or committees, or membership as a body, to incur indebtedness in the name of the GVHC, act for it, or expose it as a body to any liability whatsoever. Each member participating in GVHC activities does so wholly as an individual and in a voluntary capacity. The GVHC cannot employ others with the approval of the Executive Committee.

## V. OFFICERS

- a. The officers shall be elected for a term of two years at the annual meeting and take office immediately.
- b. The GVHC officers shall consist of a President, who shall guide the policy of the GVHC, preside at meetings, act as Chairman of the Executive Committee and perform such other duties as are specified in the Bylaws or imposed by the Executive Committee; a Vice President to act in the absence or incapacity of the President and other duties approved by the Executive Committee; a Secretary who shall keep minutes and records, attend to GVHC correspondence; and a Treasurer who shall receive dues and fees, assist the Membership Chair in matters related to the treasury, and disburse funds authorized by the Executive Committee,
- c. Each outgoing President shall be automatically appointed, for the period of two years, as ex-officio voting member of the Executive Committee. The duties will be to audit and sign the Treasurer's books before they are turned over to a newly elected Treasurer, and to attend all Executive Committee meetings in that period.
- d. The President, or other person designated by the Executive Committee in the absence of the President, shall be authorized to sign checks in the absence or incapacity of the Treasurer. Checks over \$300.00 must have prior review and approval by the Executive Committee.
- e. In the absence or incapacity of both the President and Vice President, the Executive Committee will manage the GVHC.

## VI. COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers as designated in Article V and the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees named below. It shall be the governing body of the GVHC and should meet at least three times each year in addition to the annual meeting.

The President, with approval of the Executive Committee, shall, appoint the following Standing Committees:

- a. Membership Committee shall maintain the GVHC membership list, and with the help of the Treasurer receive and record timely payment of dues.
- b. Hike Committee shall arrange for hikes and hike leaders, prepare hike schedules, and supervise hikes generally.
- c. Social Committee shall arrange for the annual meeting of the GVHC and arrange for social events.
- d. Trails Committee shall supervise the maintenance of the Finger Lakes Trail section(s) for which the GVHC is responsible. This will include appropriate liaison with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.

- e. March of Time Committee shall collect and preserve archival material depicting the history of the GVHC and its members and display materials at the appropriate GVHC events; and coordinate deposit of materials with the GVHC archives at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.
- f. Media Relations Committee shall be responsible for submitting GVHC events to local newspapers for appearance in their print and digital publications. In addition, the committee shall look for other opportunities to present our service to the public.
- g. Information Technology Committee shall maintain all websites and other electronic media.

## VII. MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the GVHC shall be held between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year at a place to be determined by the Executive Committee. The President or the Executive Committee will make a copy of these Bylaws available at the annual meeting.

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the President or by consensus of the Executive Committee as required.

Special meetings may be called by any two officers or any 6 members. At least five days' notice shall be given members of the time and place of all special GVHC meetings.

A quorum for the transaction of business at Executive Committee meetings and at the GVHC annual meeting shall be half of the Executive Committee.

## VIII. SOCIAL NETWORK AFFILIATES

GVHC began sponsoring GVHG (Genesee Valley Hiking Group) on meetup.com in 2009 and RMHG (Rochester Hiking Meetup Group) on meetup.com in 2011 to further our goals through electronic media.

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## IX. HIKES

Members and guests attending hikes must conform to the hike rules, and agree to abide by the purpose of the GVHC as stated in Article I. If the GVHC Executive Committee determines that the presence of a member or guest is having a negative impact on the congenial association of others enjoying the physical and social aspects of hiking with the GVHC, that person will not be allowed to participate in any future GVHC hikes or activities. The Executive Committee will arrange for that person to be so notified, and, if a member, they will have their dues for the current year returned to them. The hike rules shall be published on our website and in the schedule.

The hike leader shall:

- a. Scout the hike and have necessary permissions if needed before the day of the hike.
- b. Be at the designated place and time of the hike regardless of the weather conditions.
- c. Be responsible for getting a substitute leader if necessary.
- d. Be in charge of the hike and make all decisions concerning the route, rest stops, duration, etc.
- e. Arrange for or ask for a co-leader or sweep who will be responsible for bringing up the rear and ensuring, with the hike leader, that hikes do not get too spread out and hikers do not get separated from the main group.
- f. Ensure that all participants have read and signed the GVHC Trip Leaders Report, agreeing to personally accept any and all risks of injury.
- g. Describe the hike difficulty, distance, duration and hike rules.
- h. Confirm that if anyone leaves the hike, they must notify the hike leader or Sweep before and do not leave the hike alone; no fewer than two hikers should go together.
- i. Confirm that the hike as announced shall not be departed from except as may be thought necessary by the hike leader.
- j. Be aware of the restrictions: No Pets. No Radios. No Smoking.
- k. Ensure that the rules of the GVHC are enforced, and report problems to the Hike Committee and/or the Executive Committee.
- l. Set a pace that can be maintained with reasonable effort by the group so that all members of the party remain with the leader.
- m. Be able to account for all hike members at the end of the hike.
- n. Send a report of the hike to the Hike Committee chair within ten days.

## X. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those attending the GVHC annual meeting or at a special GVHC meeting called for that purpose.

Amended:

September 22, 1937. January 15, 1938. October, 1939. October 14, 1942. October 7, 1953. October 11, 1954. October 11, 1956. January 25, 1958. January 25, 1964. September 22, 1966. September 23, 1971. October 7, 1982. October 1, 1987. October 3, 1991. October 5, 2008. October 27, 2013.