

Web site Report

1. At present there is no one maintaining the web site. Debra was told to stop editing sometime last fall. Julie reported "at the last meeting that I attended it was decided that I shouldn't do anything with it until a decision was made as to what the group wanted to do with it. "

The web site with the current content does not need a lot of maintenance. As trails as extended, the maps should be updated.

Recommendation: Authorize the web committee to explore means to put an update plan/procedure in place.
2. At present the site has trail news page, which is empty. Most likely, this reflects lack of input from the trail groups. (As a side note some of the event pages on the trail groups' web sites are out of date.)

Recommendation: Remove the trail news/Events page, as this is a very time consuming operation to get information from the trail groups.
3. At present the Content Management System (CMS) for the site is a .NET application. The CMS is what a website maintainer uses to update/expand the web site. The use of a .NET makes it difficult to update/add additional content and features.

Recommendation: Authorize the web committee to change the CMS to a standard, commercial system. Word Press or Joomla are the obvious choices. See below.
4. At present the site is hosted on a leased server at softlayer.com, not at a national web hosting service like godaddy or 1and1. This means that we are dependent on a company that rents the server for security updates, software updates and backups. If the site were hosted at a national hosting service, we could be more confident that these infrastructure services would be handled correctly.

Recommendation: Authorize the web committee to move the site to a national hosting service.
5. At present the web site is currently registered to Chester Scholl (Barney). No contact information for Technical or administration support.

Recommendation: Authorize the web committee to update the Registration information to include technical and administration entries.
6. At present there is no way to accept donations on the web site, either by check, credit card or PayPal. Paypal's fee is 2.2% + 0.30, Credit cards are typically in the 2.5 to 4 % range.

Recommendation: Authorize the treasurer to set up a PayPal account. Put a donation page on the web.

I (Roy) have imported the existing content into a Word Press site with the hosting company <http://1and1.com>.

This is a proof of concept site and at present the site is not exceptional pretty, but the content from the old site is there and it is easy to edit.

I am looking for comments and thoughts. View the partial constructed site at <http://demo2.erie2pgh.org/>.

If you have content you would like to add/modify, let me know and I can authorize you as an editor.

I have started revising the map so that it links to an interactive Google map and to the trail sites. This will have a number of advantage: updating of the map will be easier; visitors to the site can get driving directions from wherever they are to trailheads, zooming is easy. I am looking for feedback.

I added a PayPal donation page.

I added an administration section that contains a few minutes, and reports and could be easily expanded and restricted.

It is the intent that the image at the top of the page will change on each call to a page.

I and the book */FreeWheeling Easy/* are willing to host the site for the small link at the bottom of every page.

Roy