

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHARTER
(The Advocacy Committee is a Committee of the Corporation)

Purpose

The Advocacy Committee shall monitor governmental and community initiatives that may impact access to and the experience of trails; draft official position statements on issues; plan and conduct advocacy campaigns; and develop the Trail Conference's annual advocacy agenda for Board approval.

Responsibilities - The Committee shall be accountable to the Executive Director for:

- Developing an annual advocacy agenda and updating it throughout the year.
- Maintaining contacts with government officials, community leaders and other advocacy groups, to respond to issues affecting trails and their surroundings.
- Participating in meetings, hearings and information sessions on trail-related matters.
- Planning and running advocacy campaigns, including communications, public relations, outreach and litigation in order to mitigate development detrimental to trails and their surroundings.
- Monitoring governmental policy decisions, media news reports and official publications (including NY and NJ semiweekly environmental notice publications) in order to identify, and enable prioritization of, threats to trails and their surroundings at an early stage.
- Supporting advocacy work of partner organizations (e.g. sign and share petitions, etc.).
- Monitoring Trail Conference compliance with nonprofit outreach rules and restrictions.

Membership

- The Advocacy Committee Chair is nominated by the Executive Director for Board approval. The Committee Chair, in consultation with the Executive Director, invites other members to the Committee. Terms on the Advocacy Committee are for one calendar year. Members may be reappointed by the nomination and approval process above. The Executive Director will name a staff member as the primary liaison to the Committee and Project Managers as needed.

Meetings

- The Committee will determine the frequency, times, and locations of its meetings.
- The chair will convene meetings, prepare meeting agendas, and work with members to set priorities. The chair may designate any Committee member as the temporary chair to facilitate a meeting.
- Meetings will be announced on the Trail Conference website along with agendas and minutes.
- A quorum will consist of a majority of all Committee members (present in person or by electronic means) and a majority vote of such members so constituting a quorum shall be necessary for action on agenda items.
- Work of the Committee can be done in person or by electronic means.