



PROGRAM: Linda Stager Presents her Guide Book on the Pine Creek Rail Trail

Ellen Dunham introduced her guest, Linda Stager. Linda spent 40 years working for the Tioga County Department of Human Services, and upon her retirement, she took up bicycling. Her favorite place soon became the Pine Creek Rail Trail, because there was little chance of being hit by a car, the grades were not steep, and there were beautiful landscapes and wild life sightings all along the route.

Once she began cycling, she lost 100 pounds, and her health improved. Although the whole trail is 62 miles long, she began with a two mile ride, which is actually a four mile ride, because you have to ride back. Linda noticed that there were mile posts along the way, and she wondered what they referred to. She discovered that when the New York Central RR took over the rail road line in 1914, the home office, which was located in Lyons, NY, directed that the mile posts indicated the distance from the home office. Once she had the initial distance mastered, she began to ride to Darling Run, which was 8.9 miles. Then one day, she noticed that there was a

bathroom hidden just out of sight around a bend, and she wondered how many people turned back because they had to use a bathroom. This became the inspiration for writing a guide book to the trail.

The book turned out to be 206 pages long, and gives information not only on where the comfort facilities are, but also on the history of the trail and where one might observe wild life. Of the 62 miles from Wellsboro to Jersey Shore, 55 miles are in the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. The book is organized into sections that match the sections of the trail that are accessible, so that people can have the option of riding or hiking it in sections. It is full of tips to keep people safe, and alerts them to the long stretches of trail where there is no food or water. In addition, many people will be interested to learn about the legacy and history, not to mention the work ethic, of the people who built that rail road in the first place. In addition, the book is full of interesting facts, such as that the forests were originally cut for ship masts, and then for the tree bark which contained a lot of tannic acid.

Linda concluded with the fact that the book is available only locally, and not thru mass market outlets. The local book stores, the local outfitters, and chambers of commerce, all along the trail sell it. That way, all the revenues stay local.



CLUB NEWS February 9, 2017

President **Mike Hummel** chaired today's meeting.

John Murphy offered the invocation.

We sang "God Bless America" accompanied by **Pat Davis** on piano.

Guests:

No guests today

FE Student Report

Yvesan Yu told us about his new found love of snowboarding and skiing, how the District Youth Conference was last weekend, and how he was so impressed with a dance demonstration with the kids adoring themselves with LED light strings. He was delighted that today was a snow day!

He was also showing of his new hat!

