



Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

Meeting Minutes, February 24, 1993

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The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. Fourteen people were in attendance. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Treasury:

Marcia Bryan reported that the executive board has appointed Rich Freeman to become our new treasurer. Norm Smith reported that he and Joe Letwin performed an audit of the treasury books for the 1992 calendar year. All was in order. Thanks to Allen Johnson for doing such a fine job as our treasurer last year.

Boughton Park:

Harry Lloyd received a response to his letter on the use of Boughton Park by non residents. The park board cited opposition by local residents and town board to having nonresidents use the park. He invited everyone to the next board meeting (April 1, 7:30 PM at the Bloomfield Library) to discuss the issue.

Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker was J. Sheldon Fisher. He shared with us many exciting and geologically interesting places to hike in the Victor area. Sheldon took us back to 1924 when he hiked with the Genesee Valley Hiking Club all over New York State and worked with them to cut the route for the Finger Lakes Trails. He left us a copy of the Seneca Indian Trails map he produced in 1970. It depicts the route Dennonville's 3,0000 soldiers took along the narrow trail to destroy Ganondagan. The trails go from Irondaquiot Bay, through East Rochester, follow Clover St. through Honeoye Falls and along route 15A. A trail to Boughton Hill splits off the main Seneca trail. In the 17th century the trails were used by explorers and missionaries. Sheldon has recreated history by following the plows of farmers years ago as they unearthed artifacts.

The Boughtons bought the hill in Victor for \$0.20 per acre. It was devoid of trees due to farming but posed a problem of access due to the steep rutty road up the hill.

When the bulldozers moved earth to build the thruway, Sheldon went between the bulldozers with his shovel. He excavated many old campfires and found the bivouac area of the battlefield from Dennonville's 3 day destruction of Ganondagan.

He retrieved arrows with a groove in the side are relics from a Clovis culture in this area, eleven to twelve thousand years ago.

At one time this area was ringed with forts. They were found in Genesee, Bath, Avon, Honeoye Falls, Fishers, Fairport, and Palmyra. The Fishers fort burned in 1826. Aaron Burr and his relatives were actively involved with the forts. Sheldon has found evidence of 50 Indian sites within a 1.5 mile radius of the Fishers post office.

The Auburn rail line (our current trail) was the first railway in the area. Originally it had wooden rails which were later replaced by metal.

John Boroughs (of the Boroughs Audubon society) studied botany extensively in this area. We have unique specimens such as huge tulip trees and the tamarack swamp on Lower Fishers Rd.

This area was once covered by a glacier 2 miles thick. Today we can find many drumlins, kettles, and kames - all formed by the glaciers.

Sheldon's second book of local tales and history is due to be published soon. It's called the "Fishhorn Warning Whistle". His first book was "The Groaning Tree".

Fred Locke (inventor of the Locke insulators) used clay to glaze his insulators. One day in digging clay he found a skull and sandstone plaque engraved "1618 Pavis". Pavis was a Basque explorer who died and was buried along the Ironduquoit Trail. He is the first white person buried in N.Y. state with any record.

We thank Sheldon for sharing his knowledge and stories with us.

Hikes:

Our next hike will be led by Marcia Bryan. Meet on March 13th at 9:00 AM in the High St. firehall parking lot. We have a one time permission to hike private lands.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 24th at 7:30 PM in the Victor Town Hall. It will probably be in an upstairs room.

Sue Freeman



Secretary