



Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

Meeting Minutes, March 24, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM. Ten people were in attendance. Last month's minutes were corrected as follows:

- In the historian report, the Auburn /Rochester trail began in 1838, not 1883.

Sheriff's Report:

- Thanks to the efforts of Ruth Nellis, a member of the Ontario County Sheriff - Victor patrol joined us to discuss the legal issues of allowing hikers through private lands. He said:
 - his experience has shown that most trail users go just to hike and cause no problems.
 - we should post all trails with a message saying "stay on the trail". Anyone not following this is subject to arrest as a trespasser.
 - he also recommended the signs say "do not damage property". This gives him or the property owner leverage if anyone abuses the property.
 - it is the landowners responsibility to call the sheriff if there are any problems and it is the landowners choice as to whether charges are pressed or not.
 - he recommended that we erect posts (removable) at road crossings to prevent motorized traffic on the trails.
 - if anyone sees abuse along a trail they should follow the abuser and get the car license plate number or the snowmobile number (on the side). This will allow the sheriff to track down the suspect.
 - a VHT member can help by speaking to a violator or getting an ID number, but the final word on pressing charges is up to the landowner.
 - he's willing to meet with a group of landowners annually to discuss legal issues and answer any of their questions.
 - If the landowner wants additional rules, the sheriff can enforce it as long as it's clearly posted at trail heads and isn't against any law.
 - he recommends that landowners post their property (be sure to put names & addresses on the posted signs).
 - feel free to call the sheriff if we see any problems. For instance, in the case of a snowmobiler, the sheriff will sit and wait for them - the snowmobilers generally turn around and return the way they came.

Treasury:

- Our bank account stands at \$1,039.

TrailBoss Report:

- Larry Fisher obtained a preliminary approval from RG&E on our bridge design. The final drawing still needs an official engineering stamp. RG&E also asked to see plans for the bridge's foundation.
- Ken Christy asked if VHT had a service project for Boy Scout Troup 86. Larry recommended that they do spring clean-up of the Victor-Fishers railway bed.

Grant Status:

- Penn Central plans to auction it's railway bed property on June 1st. This is before our grant date when we may get some \$. Marcia Bryan asked the town board if they would purchase the property. The town board put in a purchase order and we're waiting to hear from Penn Central.

The land in question is 2,000 feet of railway bed along Break-Of Day Rd. and East Victor Rd. ~~Merensia~~.

- Marcia has also asked the Ontario County Board of Supervisors to be our principal grant sponsor. Marcia signed a letter of intent. The OCBS attorney is reviewing it.
- Canandaigua dropped out of the grant application. Victor and Farmington are still in.
- Ontario Pathways has obtained a \$50K loan from Canandaigua National Bank and a \$50K loan from Rails To Trails.

TrailMaster Report:

- Carol MacInnes visited Mr. Mueller, landowner in the Indian trail area near the ambush site. He is agreeable to having a trail but, he doesn't own the part between Willowbrook Rd. and the ambush area. This is zoned industrial.
- Carol also visited some people on Break Of Day Rd. They originally were agreeable to a trail but have now decided to sell their property and don't want to encumber it.

Tax Exempt Status:

- Ward Anderson is making progress with our tax exempt application. After our meeting he worked with members of the group to complete financial statements and a description of what we plan to do. He's aiming to get the application submitted by early April.

Victor Car Show:

- Dave & Dorothy Wright will be calling to recruit bakers and to staff the booth.
- Dave updated our brochure for the '94 show.
- **Save the date - Sunday June 5.**

VHT Walk-A-Thon:

- **SAVE THE DATE September 17 will be our VHT Walk-A-Thon.**
- Dave Wright developed a preliminary brochure.
- It was discussed that we should call it something other than a "THON". Thon denotes "do it as long as you can" and our walk has a finite distance.

Membership:

- Margaret Nugent has been calling former supporters to continue as a VHT member.
- We're currently at 41 memberships.
- A hearty VHT welcome to our new member Connie Kinsman.

Trails Conference:

- March 19th FLCC and Ontario pathways sponsored a conference to share ideas about promoting, developing, and maintaining trails.
- Carol MacInnes reported that two ideas she picked up are 1) put stones in streams to prevent use of vehicles, and 2) leave low hanging branches to dissuade horses.
- Ruth Nellis questioned if the issue of access to trails by the handicapped had come up - the answer was no.

Open Space Plan:

- Marcia Bryan reported that Jane Luce formed a town of Victor team on March 1st.
- She asked us to submit information on unique areas in Victor which are worthy of preservation.
- An informational meeting to solicit public input will be held on May 25th at the Victor Town Hall.

Boughton Park Master Plan:

- A legal notice was posted in the Daily Messenger that on April 7th at 7 PM there will be a public hearing on the Boughton park Master Plan. The plan is posted at the Victor and Bloomfield libraries. The meeting will be at the E. Bloomfield library. Everyone is welcome to submit written or oral comment.

Newsletter:

- Beginning this summer we will cease publishing minute notes to general membership. We'll

begin to publish a quarterly newsletter.

•Sue and Rich Freeman will be initial editors of the newsletter.

•Please watch for or write articles of interest. If anyone wishes to contribute articles please contact Sue or Rich at 924-4149 or mail them to 7745 Peepers Hollow, Victor, N.Y. 14564.

Saturday Hike:

•Six people enjoyed a beautiful hike in the Fort Hill area..

•Join us on **April 9th** to hike from Fishers firehall to Powder Mills park. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Main Street Fishers firehall. Call Larry Fisher if you have questions (924-5803).

•**May 14th** at 9:00 AM, Sheldon Fisher will lead a hike south of the Fishers firehall along the Auburn trail and over to Fishers Park. It's a historic area and Sheldon will point out historic relics as we go. It promises to be an educational and enjoyable hike. Meet at the Main Street Fishers firehall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 28th at 7:30 PM in the Victor Town Hall. Hope to see you there!

**Support Multiple Sclerosis:
hike The MS Walk
Sunday, April 10
call 716-271-0801 for
information
or to register**

Sue Freeman



Secretary