



# VICTOR HIKING TRAILS, INC.

85 East Main Street \* Victor \* New York \* 14564-1397

February 26, 1998

The meeting called to order at 7:30 PM with the following members present:

Dave Wright	Larry Fisher	Erik Reifentahl	Bruce Mellen
Ruth Nellis	Carol MacInnes	Roberta Lockwood	Chauncy Young

## Minutes of the previous meeting:

Approved as written.

## Explorer Post Proposal:

Bruce Mellen, registered scouter, and Erik Reifentahl, district executive, both of the Boy Scouts of America spoke on establishing an Explorer Post with VHT as its chartered organization. Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts would be involved. Emphasis would be on outdoor activities under the guidelines as stated by the Boy Scouts of America as well as encouragement to participate with the VHT. The charter would be a yearly renewal. Members of VHT discussed the responsibilities involved and voted to support this partnership. Dave Wright will be the charter organization representative and will be a committee member of the Post.

## Treasurer's Report:

Checking account: 129.04	Expenses in Jan.: 161.60
Savings account : 5093.34	
Total: 5222.38	

## Membership:

Welcome to 2 new members: Judy Kaplan of Pittsford and Jerry Van Wie and family of Macedon.

Total to date is 137 memberships.

## Publicity:

Dave will submit a press release to the local paper regarding our hike next month at Letchworth State Park.

## Historian:

Roberta has been busy entering articles, minutes and reports in binders. Dave submitted new articles on the Valentine Day hike on the Greenway, John Erickson's offer to donate 30 acres of land to the Town, proposed development of Corbett's Glen, and the preservation of unpaved roads in our town.

**Newsletter:**

Deadline for the next issue is March 1. Information to be included in the mid-March issue will be photos, trail maintenance schedule, our new Explorer Post and their plans, Rochester Bike Clubs' schedule, and information on the Freeman's new book. Our revised trail schedule will be published: June 6 is National Trails Day on which we will hike in Victor and Dave will apply to Bergen Swamp for us to come on June 13 which is a change in our original plans.

**Trailmaster's Report:**

Carol recently led a trip to Val Morin (north of Montreal) where there is a north/south linear trail snow-groomed for cross-country skiing, skate skiing, hiking and families pulling youngsters in sleds. Marcia Bryan was also on this trip and asked Carol to pass along the news that her daughter will be having a baby in September around the time when our hike in the Adirondacks was planned. We have the option of coming late August or late October.

**Trailboss' Report:**

Larry, Dave and Chauncy met with Steve Beauvais from the NYS DOT to discuss the bridge over the Irondequoit Creek. The current bridge was rated and given many 1's (1 being the lowest). To completely replace this bridge with a 109-foot span, it would cost from \$120,000 - \$150,000. Larry, Dave and Steve met with Jane Luce afterward. Mr. Beauvais suggested we apply for additional funding. Within 30 days, by April 1, we must respond with 3 estimates. Larry will contact engineering firms.

**Last Hike:**

We had 12 adults, 2 young boys and 5 dogs on our walk from Scottsville to Avon on the Genesee Valley Greenway. Alan Oberst again was our leader, pointing out historically significant features. We followed the remnants of the towpath of the Genesee Valley Canal, later used as a railbed for the Pennsylvania Railroad, that ran from Rochester to Allegany County, a distance of approximately 90 miles.

**Old Business:**

Chauncy received a letter from the state saying we've never been officially registered as a non-charitable organization. While we know this is a mistake, Chauncy will re-register the VHT.

The annual financial audit will take place next month.

The Town signed an agreement to accept the Erickson property so long as there are no legal problems with it.

Dave wrote to the NYS Thruway regarding the proposed closing of bridges no longer used for their original intent. They do not have any current plans to fill in the Fisher's bridge along the Auburn Trail. They will keep our letter on file and inform us of any activity in the future.

We will hike in Victor on June 6, National Trails Day, and the hike in the Bergen Swamp is planned for June 13.

**New Business:**

Macedon Trails has discontinued their monthly hikes due to a lack of interest.

There is a symposium on Caring for Creeks scheduled for Sat., Feb 28 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Carol MacInnes is planning to attend.

Rochester Bicycling Club has planned some Rail-Trail rides. On Sun., June 21 at 10AM, they will meet at Mikey Finn's in Victor and ride the Auburn. Other scheduled rides include the Genesee Valley Greenway, Ontario Pathways, Hojack Line in Greece, the Lehigh Valley Trail and the Keuka Outlet Trail.

Rochester Bicycling Club has published a "Share the Trails" guideline brochure. The mountain bike patrol is distributing it, and will place them in bike shops and trail heads at Letchworth and Finger Lakes Trail.

At the Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting, Dave addressed the board regarding their continued financial support for paying the insurance rider that covers our group. They assured us that they would pay the premium again this year.

The first International Trails and Greenways Conference was attended by over 700 delegates from 12 countries in San Diego on Jan. 28 -31. Keynote presentations and other conference materials are on the RTC web site at [www.railtrails.org](http://www.railtrails.org). There are now over 10,000 miles of rail-trails in the U.S..

Hang Around Victor Day will be Sat., Sept. 12. We discussed joining efforts with our new Explorer Post.

The Trails Inventory has been updated. The master trail map at the Town Hall needs to be updated.

The main map has been updated to show the Royal View Trail, the Piper Trail, the Mary Frances Bluebird Haven, the Lehigh Trail, Fort Hill and the Proposed Town Park on Dryer Rd.. Carol will speak with the Pipers to ask if they want their trail on the map and, if so, what should it be named.

Bruce Mellen informed us that the scouts will be hiking Vine Valley Sun., Mar. 15, 10AM. Meet at the library if you would like to join.

**Next Hike:**

March 14 - Letchworth State Park. Carpool from the Town Hall at 9AM, McDonald's at Mt. Morris at 10AM. The hike will be approximately 8 miles and take about 5 hours. We will hike the south end on the west side. Bring a lunch, water, good supporting hiking boots. Pets must be on a leash. No children under 12 due to the steep grades in the gorge.

**Next Meeting:**

March 26, 1998, 7:30PM at the Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** 9:05PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth E. Nellis - Secretary

## VHT CALENDAR

- March 14 – hike at Letchworth
- March 15 – Scouts' hike at Vine Valley
- March 26 – next meeting at Town Hall, 7:30
- April 11 - hike Corbett's Glen
- May 9 - hike Chimney Bluffs
- June 6 - hike in Victor
- June 13 - hike Bergen Swamp
- June 21 - Rails-to-Trails ride along the Auburn Trail

Yankee weather proverb: March robin, Devil's warning.