



VICTOR HIKING TRAILS, INC.

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

**March 25, 1998
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 PM with 4 attending:

Dave Wright Chauncy Young Dave Coleman Norm Smith

Last Month's Minutes:

Correction. 7 members attended, including Douglas Fisher.

Treasurer's Report:

February:	CD	\$2000.00
	Checking account	372.02
	Savings account	3506.76
	Total	5878.78

Membership:

7 memberships were renewed. 16 memberships were dropped for no payment of dues for at least 9 months.

Total members is 117 households.

Publicity:

Dave faxed a notice to the newspapers for the April hike.

Historian:

No report.

Education:

No report.

Newsletter:

The spring edition was mailed out March 1. The next issue will be sent out June 1. Please submit articles to Dave by May 28. Ideas for the next issue include: hikes past and future, the 10 most important items to carry on every hike, National Trails Day, Town of Victor open space guidelines, selecting hiking boots, the importance of wetlands to a community, black fly protection, "Leave No Trace" hiking and camping.

The Town Newsletter will be published in May. Dave will write an article about VHT. Send any information to Dave by May 1.

Trailmaster:

Carol spoke with Benderson Associates regarding the Seneca Trail between Firehouse 2 on High St. and Willowbrook. They will be coming before the Planning Board with a proposal in April and would like to wait until after that meeting before signing any revocable permits.

Trail Boss:

No report.

Last Hike:

7 people hiked and/or skied the trails at Boughton Park. It was a sunny day with lots of snow from the last storm.

Old Business:

The annual kick-off breakfast was held at Brenda's Restaurant on Main St. on Sat., March 13. The following people attended: Dave Wright, Norm Smith, Dave and Ruth Nellis, Chauncy Young, Carol MacInnes, Larry Fisher, Doug Fisher, and Dave Coleman.

Dave Wright attended the Rails-to-Trails talk given by Craig Della-Penna on March 12. He was a very good speaker with some very interesting slides of old railroads converted to trails. He is writing a book on Rails-to-Trails in NYS.

The March 6 meeting at the Yard of Ale in Piffard was postponed due to the snow storm. The Genesee Greenway is hoping to get Mr. Richard Tufnell, British master stone mason and director of the Dry Stone Masonry Conservancy to come to our area in April.

TEA-21 Grant: Chauncy wrote a letter to Debbie Wegman at RG&E asking them to consider donating their Auburn rail bed property to the Town to be used as the basis for a grant application. Dave sent letters to 23 various organizations and towns asking for letters of support. Responses are being sent to Jack Richter. Jack has already received several letters. The Town Board passed a resolution on 3-22-99 giving Jack authorization to submit a grant application for the property and repair of the bridges. The April 1 deadline has been changed to June 1.

New Business:

We have an order for a history book from a gentleman in Connecticut. Chauncy will mail it.

We have an order for Rich and Sue's new hiking book. Dave will call them for publication date.

We received the spring 1999 issue of the Finger Lakes Trail News. A list of their 1999 hikes is included. See attachment.

They are sponsoring a Trail Design and Construction Course on April 16 & 17, 9:30 to 4:30 PM at Camp Cutler in Naples. You can attend either day. See attachment.

BSA has an article on "Leave No Trace" camping in their monthly magazine. "Family Safety and Health" magazine has an article on bike safety in their spring 1999 issue.

Dave, Larry and Chauncy met with Mike Dittman of Eagle Landscaping to discuss a bridge design that could be used at Great Brook. It is a simple basic design like we have used at other crossings. It would use eight 2"X12"X16' pressure treated boards bolted together to span the creek. Decking and hand-rails would be included. The foundation would be gravel. Dave, Larry and Chauncy want to investigate having the bridge closer to the RG&E substation. They will check out the area after the snow is gone, but before the vegetation gets too thick.

If you are interested in horse trails in NYS, there is a book "Ride New York, 35 Horse and Multiple-Use Trails in the Empire State" by Anne M. O'Dell. Cost is \$19.00, tax and shipping included.

The Victor Car Show will be Sunday, June 6, 1999. Do we want a booth this year? It was discussed and decided that no, this is not our audience.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society is looking for funds for their museum in Manchester.

O'Brien Homes was going to develop 44 lots on 60.8 acres on Gillis Rd., across from Cobblestone. This would include a trail at the rear of the property up to the "100 Acre Woods" and the wetland. The property is currently in the process of being sold to another builder. Wiley Estates borders on the east.

The Ryan Property is moving forward. The plan calls for 41 lots on 47.4 acres. 50% would be open space, 22.7 acres of pond, creek and woods in the middle. Most of out trail could be preserved along White Brook. Additional trails could be planned.

Frontier will be putting buried cable for telephone and CATV through a conservation easement between the Village water tower at Hillcrest Drive and the new lots on Dorsett Trail in Quail Ridge East. It will be a 10-foot wide easement from the Town. They will dig a 12-inch wide by 36-inch deep trench for 4 conduits. This could be part of a trail in the conservation easement.

The Victor Historical Society will be presenting a vision plan to the Town Board to add to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. They envision a cultural district preserving the old buildings and not putting up new ones.

Dave let the Planning board know that Benderson Associates would not sign a trail revocable permit until they had made a presentation to the board.

Harry Lloyd will mail a letter to the Adopt-A-Trail sponsors reminding them of their commitment and a copy of Larry's maintenance schedule. The goal will be to have them trim their section of trail a week or two before we are scheduled, making our job easier.

A letter to Jack Bauer wishing him a happy and healthy retirement and thanking him and the Town Highway department for all their help on the Auburn and Lehigh Trails will be sent to him on 3/26/99.

Next Hike:

April 10 - Zurich Bog. Meet at Victor Town Hall at 9:00 AM. Mona Rynearson of Newark has agreed to lead the hike. It should be very educational. Bring boots for wet walking and your camera or binoculars.

Next Meeting: 7:30PM, Thurs., April 22.

Adjournment: 8:40 PM

Minutes typed by Ruth Nellis with Dave Wright's notes.

VHT CALENDAR

April 10 9 AM Hike Zurich Bog
April 22 7:30 PM Monthly meeting
May 1 Articles for Town Newsletter due
May 8 9 AM Hike Chimney Bluffs
May 27 7:30 PM Monthly meeting
May 28 Articles for VHT Newsletter due
June 5 9 AM National Trails Day, hike Seneca Trail
June 12 9 AM Bike Auburn and Lehigh Trails to Mendon
June 24 7:30 PM Monthly meeting
July 10 9 AM Hike Dish Mill Creek at Letchworth
July 22 7:30 PM Monthly meeting

“March robin, Devil’s warning.” From Yankee Weather Proverbs

Trail Design and Construction Course

Volunteers and agency personnel interested in learning more about the principles and techniques of planning, designing, flagging, and constructing low-impact hiking trails that require minimal maintenance and are a pleasure to use will be offered just such a course, sponsored by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference. The instructor will be Bill Menke who is National Park Service manager for the North Country National Scenic Trail from the Madison NPS office.

There will be two separate sessions available: one on Friday, April 16, and the other on Saturday, April 17, 1999. They will be conducted at the J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation located about 6 miles north of Naples, NY, between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day. A map will be available to all who register. There is no charge for either session. Bring a bag lunch, water, and outdoor clothing and foot gear.

Each day's session will include the following presentations which will focus on the North Country Trail, but topics are applicable to any hiking trail.

Indoor session

- Brief background on National Scenic Trails
- The "Importance of a Thread of Continuity" on a long-distance trail
- North Country Trail signing and blazing. Various signs will be available.
- The local designer's role in how users value the trail
- Basic trail location objectives
- Use of 1:24,000 topographic maps to design a trail
- A simple way to incorporate trail gradient standards on the map
- Learn to use a clinometer

Field session

- Basic compass use (dependent on experience of group)
- Inspecting and evaluating an existing trail
- Small team practice with clinometer to see the effect of various trail gradients
- Scouting a new trail location
- Small team use of clinometer to lay new trail to grade
- Trail construction crew organization and practice constructing a short segment of trail

To register contact Howard Beye at the FLTC Service Center, 202 Colebourne Road, Rochester, NY 14609-6733 or call him at 716/288-7191 before April 7, 1999. The Service Center's email address is flt@axsnet.com.

Linda's 1999 Hikes

Featuring the FLT System Branch Trails

Everyone welcome! Call Linda Mattice at 716/768-6167 for more information.

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| April 25 | Interloken Trail. FLT map I-1. 11.9 miles. Meet at 9:30 at County Road 4 and NYS Route 79. |
| May 16 | Letchworth Trail. FLT map M7/L2. 11.2 miles. NYS Route 19A (Whiskey Bridge) to access point F. Meet at 9:30 on Route 19A just south of bridge in Portageville. |
| June 13 | Queen Catharine Marsh Trail. FLT map QCMT. Loop hike. 9.05 miles. Meet at 9:30 at Watkins Glen Burger King. |
| June 27 | Bristol Hills Branch Trail. FLT map B-1. 12.8 miles. Access points 1 to 5. Meet at 9:30 in parking area just over Naples Creek bridge on NYS Route 245 in Naples. |
| July 25 | Bristol Hills Branch Trail. FLT maps B-1 and B-2. 12 miles. Access point 5 to Pulver Road. Meet at 9:30 at junction of Italy Turnpike (County Road 34) and Dunn Road. |
| August 1 | Letchworth Trail. FLT map L-1. 14.5 miles. Access point F to Genesee River Hotel. Meet at 9:30 at Genesee River Hotel parking lot (NYS Route 36). |
| August 22 | Bristol Hills Branch Trail. FLT maps B-2 and B-3. 12.5 miles. Pulver Road to access point 14. Meet at 9:30 at junction of NYS Route 53 and Flynn Road. |
| September 5 | Letchworth State Park end to end. FLT maps L-1 and L-2. 22.5 miles. Meet 8:00 at NYS Route 436 bridge in Portageville. |
| September 26 | Bristol Hills Branch Trail. FLT map B-3. 14.8 miles. Access points 14 to 19. Finally, we will meet the junction of the main FLT. Meet at 9:30 at NYS Route 53 and Larue Road (Marshalls). |

Editor's note: Ben Petryszak also has planned a series of hikes on the main FLT from March 20 through August 21, 1999, including 3-day series over Memorial Day and July 4th weekends. Because of space limitations, I was not able to include the hike schedule in this issue of *FLT News*. Please call Ben at 716/828-0282 for information.