

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
Regular Monthly Meeting
Victor Town Hall
August 23, 2001

Called to order at 7:35 PM

Attendees: Dave Wright, David Coleman, Jeff Hennick, Ruth Nellis, Chauncy Young, Larry Fisher, Norm Smith, Carol MacInnes, Kathy Manners, Russ Brindle, Ed Brindle, Jeanne Maybee, John McVay, Douglas Fisher

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Commenced the meeting with introduction to Russ Brindle who would like an Eagle Project. He is interested in building a bluebird observation deck at MaryFrancis Bluebird Haven. The first step will be to speak to Charlene at the Town of Victor. They will need to approve the project. Mr. Butler, the caretaker and person who donated 39 acres has a master plan of the park; details need to be checked; proportions and it may need to be wheelchair accessible. The question of financing the project came up. Russ said he intended to check with Home Depot and Victor Coal and Lumber to find out about possible discounts or donations. The town should help; labor can be supplied by Boy Scouts, Dads etc. Eastern Bluebird Association, NYS recommends a covered structure for observing bluebirds. Sapsucker Woods at Cornell may have an observatory to check out and it was recommended that a closer birder sanctuary: 1,000 Acre Swamp in Penfield be visited or people contacted via that group.

Another Eagle Project has been suggested for Monkey Run by Zack Rheume from Chili. He is interested in a self-guided interpretive nature trail. Dave Wright has walked the trail with him and showed him what needs to be done regarding moving the trail; the bridge, etc.

Last Month's Minutes: Approved as written

Treasurer's Report:

C.D. \$	2,563.30
Checking	461.73
Savings	3,318.43
Cash	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$6,343.46

Membership: New members this month: Jean Maybee, Hook Road and Eileen Cash, Victor. 5 renewals. Current Membership is 139.

Publicity: No faxes sent to newspaper, due to no hike in September. David Wright will send news 2nd week in Sept. to papers.

Historian: Ganondagan Festival in news. Grant of \$100,000 to develop horse trails(Boughton Hill Road); and to connect hiking trail from Dryer Road Park to Fort Hill and from Visitor's Center to Fort Hill.

Jeff Hennick vacationed in Maine and found out that the Maine trails have been developed through eminent domain legalities to obtain trail access. Jeff also observed that housing developers are planning trails as part of the development.

Education: Ruth Nellis is submitting a 4-page article on “Wildflowers in the Fall”; Ruth discovered that people are allowed to pick fall wildflowers; she will ask readers to “just observe” when hiking. Ruth plans a Spring edition on Wildflowers and the necessity to protect these varieties.

Ruth and Larry Fisher walked the Young property at Fisher’s Park; made a list of trees to label and a few of the most common plants. Ruth plans to keep the descriptions simple and highlight major importance of species. It is thought that a post with 8X12 laminated sign attached (similar to those in Highland Park) sealed and protected from the weather. Town needs to be contacted- Charlene Berry-Pickering. David Wright has spoken in general to Charlene regarding an interpretive nature trail. Town had an intern during the summer who put up new signs in the picnic area. Since there are numerous interesting trees on the Young property; it was discussed how far to extend the interpretive information. The preference is to put a sign at the site of a tree rather than a booklet at the head of the trail with a map describing the entire area.

VHT Newsletter: has been roughed out; Ruth’s article will fill the issue; previous hikes; upcoming Adirondack hike; Fall Festival; Hang Around Victor Day; our booth; the results of the dedication(speech at dedication given by Sheldon Fisher). Could Harry Lloyd write an article regarding Adopt-A-Trail; we need more people participating in this project. It was suggested that the people who have signed up might need to be reminded. Maybe a laminated sign about adopting trails could be put up at trailheads. Dave sent Harry an updated list.

Victor Newsletter: Town/Village of Victor – General information has been put together.

Trailmaster: Ruth and Carol tried to persuade the Ramseys; response: “No Way” do they want trail through their property. Allens have also been resistant. Mr. Massig getting his house ready to sell. Peter Fabbio of Springdale promotes trails in his developments.

Trail Boss: Larry said not too much to report. Last month’s drought kept the trails stable except for the low lying areas. Larry used the mower, very bad; sprayed with stones and grass; needs to be maintained. Willowbrook signs defaced, need to be fixed. Normal path needs to be mowed . Any need to fix for Seneca hike? May need to mow to the top of the hill from Willowbrook.

Special Hike scheduled for the Genessee Valley Hiking Club for Aug. 26. Dave W. will lead hike Sunday morning. Meet at Firehouse on High Street at 9 am, ride to Ganondagan, hike back to firehouse. Valentown Museum will be open; old movie being shown at Firehouse of early hikers, including Sheldon Fisher. Annual meeting at 3:00 pm in the Firehouse.

Carol MacInnes will be taking her friends on a short hike at 12:00 noon.

TEA-21 Grant: Jack Richter talked to Deb Wegman regarding sale of Auburn. Will ask for utility easement; make part of sale to include trail. Town would like to keep as a parcel, not split. Fix stone bridge; connection to Lehigh and Auburn; ramp accessible between trails and over Lehigh Trestle. Make road crossing more inviting: replace gates, build kiosks; historical signs. A rough draft of plan must be submitted to DOT by end of August. Need backing from State; will be getting letter to gov't officials, local businesses.

Last Hike: Stony Brook Great weather; 16 people including kids and school teachers. 4 cars went to the site hiked the gorge, took the rim trail back. Ate lunch took other rim trail back. Comment by a hiker: "so this is why there are only first timers on this hike".

Genesee Region Trail Coalition: Meets once a month at Perinton CC; third Thursday; 3 pm. By-laws created; mission statement approved. How to get membership from hiking Groups. Genesee region work together on fund-raisers. Build a community chest for trail improvements. Fund Raiser this Fall was cancelled, not enough time this year. Get Wegman's, Rite-Aid, Via Health involved.

Victor Round Table: Chauncy is our representative at these sessions. Meets first Friday of month at 8 am at Town Hall. Reported that the Bank of Geneva is going into the demolished site of Adam's gas station.

October 13 is the Family Fall Festival; VHT will have a table; we need to contact ADK; contact other hiking organizations; display regional hike clubs. Family hike/bike; rodeo biking/safety biking planned for the day. Chauncy will lead hikes from Ganondagan to Village at 11 am and 1 pm.

Victor LDC is going to acquire one of the Horses on Parade (Gateway to the Finger Lakes) for \$5,000.

A pharmacy is going in next to the library.

Dave W. sent information on setting up a hiking trail to a professor at Delhi.

New map of off-road bike trails, available at Bike Shops.

New Business:

David Wright will be submitting a folder with old maps to be updated by Rich Freeman when he gets back. We can mark them up and have an electronic version created.

Town of Perinton has a bike trail pamphlet.

Mendon Foundation is applying for a TEA-21 grant: Mendon Station Park in the hamlet

International Trail Days : September 26-29, St. Louis.

September 16, 17, 18: NY State Canal Conference in Syracuse.

Dryer Road Park; will have lacrosse fields and trails. Fields need to be graded in 2002; they will wait for a year before using them.

There will be a driveway into the park and parking for 150 cars.

A trail from Fort Hill to Dryer Road Park will be built.

Ontario Pathways: Newsletter came out.

Canal Way Trails and Times Newsletter: Bike Ride in October, Informational Kiosk on Canal pathway looks good.

New Finger Lakes Tourist Brochure: Commercial places; Wine Trails, Food places. Revitalization of Village; LDC hired Saratoga Associates to head up; meeting scheduled for Sept 11. Location to be determined.

Tony Gullace, Village Trustee– got Parks dept. permission to create access road from East St. into Brace Road Park. Town will coordinate.

Sept. 1; Ring of Fire. Meet at town hall at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 8: Hang Around Victor Day-Need to sign up to man the booth: Ruth Nellis, Norm Smith, David Wright will be there.

Next Hike: October monthly hike on 6th: First Saturday: Wesley Hill Nature Preserve

Next Meeting: Sept. 27th at 7:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Kathleen A. Manners

Calendar

Sept. 27 monthly meeting
Oct. 6 Hike Wesley Hill Nature Preserve
Oct. 12-14 Adirondack Fall Weekend
Oct. 13 Victor Family Fall Festival Hike and Bike event
Oct. 25 monthly meeting- 2002 hike schedule planning
Nov.10 Hike Fishers Park
Nov. 15 monthly meeting- Elect new officers for 2002
Dec. 8 Northampton, ski or hike
Dec. 20 monthly meeting and party
Jan. 12 First hike of 2002 and Kick-off Breakfast for officers