

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
Regular Monthly Meeting
Victor Town Hall
October 18, 2001

Called to order at 7:32 PM

Attendees: Dave Wright, David Coleman, Ruth Nellis, Larry Fisher, Carol McInnes, Kathy Manners, Roberta Lockwood, Douglas Fisher

Last Month's Minutes: Approved as written

Treasurer's Report:

C.D. \$	2,563.30
Checking	690.92
Savings	3,326.51
Cash	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$6,580.73

Membership: Three new members this month; welcome to Gayle and Brian Reh, Greg and Melissa O'Sullivan and Amy Thatcher. Six renewals, one for \$100.00. Total current membership now stands at 154.

Publicity: Dave Wright sent faxes to the local newspapers and updated the phone message.

Historian: Articles on the Appalachian Trail and our Wesley Hill hike were given to Roberta.

Education: Ruth Nellis recommends that we add our red signs, from the Seneca Trail in Ganondagan at the turn by the hill overlooking the creek, to the Visitor's Center in Ganondagan. Dave W. will check with Peter Jemison.

VHT Newsletter: Suggested future newsletter article explaining responsibilities of officers. Kathy would like to do an article on migrating geese for the December 1 issue. Plans for next newsletter include planned hikes for 2002, officers for 2002, dedication of new section of Fishers Park, results of Eagle projects and Adirondack trip. Deadline is Nov. 15. Two ideas for future issues of the newsletter: Edible/non-edible mushrooms in the Victor area; ferns in the Victor area.

Trailmaster: Carol will call on Laurie Allen to see if she will give us permission for a trail from Powder Mills Park to Fishers Road.

Trail Boss: Larry will look into purchasing a new gas hedge trimmer to replace our original. He will winterize the mowers. We have permission to build a new bridge in

Monkey Run. Larry and Dave will add rocks to wire cages under the bridge over Great Brook on Saturday 10/27/01 @ 9 AM.

Last Hike: Seven members enjoyed a great hike at Wesley Hill Nature Preserve and then a hike on a nature trail at Camp Cutler.

TEA-21 Grant: Chauncy attended a meeting at Stu Brown's (consultant putting the grant together) office on 10/11/01 with members of the Town, Village and LDC. Our task is to allow Dave W. to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town, Village and LDC regarding the maintenance of the trail. The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS the Town of Victor, Village of Victor, Victor Hiking, Inc. and the Victor Local Development Corporation have jointly authorized the submission of an application for funding under the Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP) to acquire property and construct improvements to establish a multi-use trail system, extending across the Town and Village of Victor and connecting with parks, trails and activity centers within Victor and adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS, each of the co-applicants has agreed to provide a share of the required local match for the TEP, and

WHEREAS, the construction of the multi-use trail will require ongoing maintenance to ensure that it is maintained in good and safe condition for the enjoyment of users;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc., agrees to provide at least \$3,000 in cash and at least 50 hours of volunteer labor to construct the trail as a portion of the local match; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. confirms its intent to work together with the other co-applicants to jointly establish a maintenance schedule, to commit resources to ensure that the trail is available for safe and convenient use and to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Directors to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with co-applicants to achieve these objectives.

Larry Fisher made the motion to approve the Resolution; the motion was seconded by Roberta Lockwood. All present agreed; the proposed resolution was carried.

Genesee Region Trail Coalition is working on developing fund-raisers. They have approached Wegmans, Tops, Eckerd, Rite-Aid and are trying to get info on other groups to participate in the project: GRVA, Chamber, IMC, Via Health, Bicycle Clubs, Trail Clubs, etc.

Victor Fall Family Festival: Although the weather was perfect, the attendance was light. Chauncy led two hikes with a total of 13 people. Sheldon and Douglas Fisher had eight participants for the Village Historical Walk. We sold two of the Freeman's books.

Old Business: Parks Master Plan: Nov. 26-Update at Town Board Meeting; Dec. 4, Community Meeting at Victor Education Center @ 7 PM. Jan 14, 2002, Town Board adoption.

Eagle Projects: Zack Rheume is concentrating on getting his AP grades up. He may not have time to complete his project. Russ Brindle has been busy with Marching Band, but will be working on his Eagle project in the next few weeks. He is interested in building a bridge over White Brook at Monkey Run.

Don't forget: October 27 is Club member day at EMS, 20% off.

Adirondack Trip: A small, but joyful, group of hikers drove to Marcia's place on Friday, October 12: Larry Fisher, Dave Coleman, Kathy Manners, Len Fela, and Beena Shivashamkar. In unfailing energy – Marcia had again prepared a delicious meal for us all – baked chicken and vegetables and salad. We all arose well before the crack of dawn to make the trail head at Ausable Club, by 7:30 a.m., for the agreed hike up Saw Teeth with a proposed continuation on to Gothic. This all sounded quite ambitious to us mere mortals, but our angel hiker guide – Marcia – made it seem like an easy day excursion. Larry did scatter quiet words of wisdom to any ears that wanted to hear: he told us that one of the disadvantages was the necessity to reach the trailhead via a 3 ½ mile trek on the road from Ausable Club to Ausable Lake where the **real** climbing began. He said the trip back down that road would seem much longer at the end of the day – oh Larry – how right you were. And it must be noted, that Kathy did read in one of the many books on the High Peaks, available at Marcia's the evening before – that Sawteeth – “was not easy.” Nonetheless we mighty, determined hikers went our merry way – pausing at the base of Sawteeth to enjoy a powerful view of Indian Head looming over Ausable Lake (upper or lower I can't remember); we took a short bi-pass to view Rainbow Falls – one of the most beautiful falls in the Adirondacks if not the tallest. Entering the area is like being in a green grotto with many beautiful rocks and climbs – then you crane your neck to take in a sheer promontory of rock ledge over which cascades the falls. We imagined the rainbow that was possible at that elevation when the sun caught the spray - just right - in it's lyrical descent.

Then we were on to the task of the day – SAWTEETH!! However, we took the scenic route up to Sawteeth; which meant scrambling lake side and catching views of the formidable Indian Head and Ausable Lake all along the way. This was a pure delight. The day was foggy with promises that the sun was going to shine and clear up the sky to accommodate our view of the magnificent mountains. This never happened – but quite frankly we were so engrossed in getting up the mountain and studying the various rocks to determine sure footing; gathering courage to ascend three very untrustworthy ladders; deciding on precarious hand and footholds, etc. – that the weather was irrelevant. Contrary to what one might expect, it was hot for the Adirondacks and we were all dripping with perspiration – that's pure sweat Honey – when we rested near the summit and had our lunch. This hiker was really tired at that point and wanting to know that we actually reached the top – and hoping in her heart that we would not try to tackle Gothic. I could go on and on- but will conclude that on this peak – there really is no peak. There are several small boulders that branch off the trail that are conspicuously marked as super views. Where and when we reached the actual pinnacle – was a mystery to all – but we were assured by the masters that it had indeed happened. To help us on our way our

hike was full of rich green mosses, ferns, lichen; views of a wide variety of trees decked out in gold, amber, red and rich browns; and an occasional chickadee and white breasted nut hatch squirrel and chipmunk accompanied our vigorous excursion. Fortunately for this hiker, it was agreed that to “do” Gothic that afternoon was not a good idea – and we began our struggle – and I do mean struggle back down the mountain – to reach the parking lot about 6:30 p.m.

And Larry was accurate – the 3 ½ walk down the gentle road, after we got off the mountain, seemed like an eternity. I speak for myself due to much bruised feet and pain that would not stop. With all this agony and ecstasy – most of the brave from our trip got up Sunday and did a mountain called Dippikill – oh well some people just never give up. I have to confess that two hikers – Kathy and Len – took it easy on Sunday, sat by Schroon Lake and enjoyed the sun, went to church, read the NY times, etc. But we are eager to return in the Spring – Marcia – so don’t give up on us. Oh yes, I must not neglect to tell you we all took showers and met at a delightful restaurant in Schroon Lake, on Saturday, and laughed throughout our dinner due to a lively waitress and our charming new friend: Beena.

New Business: Slate of Officers for 2002, vote next month
Chairman – David Wright
Vice Chairman – Norm Smith
Secretary - Kathy Manners
Treasurer - Chauncy Young
Trail Master – Carol MacInnes
Trail Boss - Larry Fisher
Historian - Roberta Lockwood
Education - Ruth Nellis

Proposed Hikes for 2002:

January – Harriet Hollister Park
February - Perinton Hills
March - Genesee County
April- Boughton Park
May - Outlet Trail
June - Fishers Park
July - 13 Falls/Briggs Gully7/West D.C. Hill Naples

Please think about possible hikes for the remaining months of 2002. We will finalize at next month’s meeting.

Next Hike: Nov. 10 Pass the word along that we will meet at Fishers Park to dedicate the new section of parkland adjacent to the original park. Meet at picnic area on Main St. Fishers at 9 AM . Hike will follow the dedication.

Next Meeting: Nov. 15

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Manners

Calendar

- Nov.10 Hike Fishers Park and new park land trails
- Nov. 15 monthly meeting- Elect new officers for 2002
- Nov. 26 Parks Master plan presentation to Town Board, 7 PM
- Dec. 4 Public input to Parks Master plan at VEC at 7 PM
- Dec. 8 Northampton, ski or hike park trails
- Dec. 20 monthly meeting and party
- Jan. 12 First hike/ski of 2002 and Kick-off Breakfast for new and old officers
- Jan. 14 Town Board public hearing for Parks Master plan