

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
MEETING AT VICTOR TOWN HALL
December 17, 2015

ATTENDANCE: Dave Wright, Chauncy Young, Carol MacInnis, Ralph Weber, Barb Cole, Pete Ingalsbe, Wizzy Geno, Paul Spitzer and Suzy Paquin.

Meeting called to order by Dave Wright at 7:34p.m.

MINUTES of November 19th meeting, **Motion** to approve the minutes by Carol, seconded by Barb – **Approved**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barb Cole

As of 11/30/15:

- ✓ Checking and savings - \$6,788
- ✓ Other assets - \$0
- ✓ Total assets - \$6,788

Barb noted that she had some bills and wanted to know if it was ok to pay them.

Invoice from the Chamber of Commerce on renewing dues in the amount of \$60.

Motion to pay the invoice for \$60 to renew the dues to the Chamber of Commerce, by Chauncy, seconded by Pete - **Approved**

Frontier Communications, monthly bill, for the voice mail line in the amount of \$11.31. Dave said that this was normal and ok to pay.

Victor Coal & Lumber, an invoice that was charged through the Town account but appears to be for VHT. Chauncy clarified that this was for the boardwalk that Chauncy and Dave did in Lehigh Crossing Park. Brian said that the Town would cover the cost of the materials and VHT would complete the work. Barb will pass this on to Mary for payment.

Parks & Trails New York, a \$50 annual bill and Barb will clarify that this is for VHT and not Chauncy's.

Renewal for membership with the American Hiking Society in the amount of \$112. There are different membership levels and Barb is unsure of which one. Chauncy noted that we should be on a different program as VHT is a non-profit organization and usually gets a discount. Last year it was \$75. Barb will call and see if there is a lower rate for non-profit

organizations. If the amount is \$75 Barb can pay it, if the amount is something more, wait until next month.

Barb had sent the budget out to everyone to review. She and Chauncy had worked on it together. Discussion followed on some of the items.

Motion to approve the 2016 VHT Budget, with copies to the Town Supervisor and Director of Parks & Recreation, by Ralph, seconded by Wizzy – **Approved**

Motion to approve the financials by Pete, seconded by Carol - **Approved**

MEMBERSHIP: Pete Ingalsbe

We have 264 members, with 57 due to renew. Last month he dropped 17 people who had not renewed, 13 were from National Trails Day 2013.

On the membership renewals, he is now including with the membership card, the postcard size sheet about Meetup. Pete noted that he needs more stamps.

Chauncy noted that there are 298 Meetup members. Discussion followed on whether to charge \$5 to be a Meetup member. It was decided at this time not to charge.

PUBLICITY: Dave Wright

Dave has not sent out a press release or updated the message line for the next hike yet as he was not sure where we would be meeting. It was decided to meet at the Quaker Pond Trail Head in Mendon Ponds. From there you can hike, snowshoe, or cross country ski.

He received an email from a resident in Cobblestone who publishes a monthly magazine for those residents. One of the residents said it would be nice to know more about the trails since they are right next to them and when the hikes are. So Dave did a write up on VHT and included a couple of pictures. That will be their January issue.

EDUCATION: Ralph Weber

Dave was thinking that we could have a possible educational hike at Ganondagan, with a group tour of the new facility, sometime next year. This would be an additional hike, possibly a Saturday morning. Ralph will reach out to Ganondagan.

Ralph has been trying to coordinate with Meg Joseph at Ganondagan, on a date for the educational hike. Meg had wanted us to do the hike during their Winter Games on 1/20. We would like to have it on a different day. They are closed from 1/16 to 2/13. Dave

suggested maybe the 4th Saturday of February or March since our regular hike is on the 2nd Saturday. Ralph will propose March 26th to Meg and get back to us.

Another suggestion for an educational hike was for Mees Observatory in Bristol. Do a night hike and tour there. We would choose a night with no moon and hopefully no clouds. Ralph noted that it looks like they have regular scheduled tours on Friday and Saturday nights in June, July & August. Maybe we could tie-in with their regular tour.

VOLUNTEERS: Wizzy Geno
No Report

NEWSLETTER: Dave Wright

Dave is working on the winter issue of the newsletter and it will be out in December by our next meeting. Please send any articles to Dave. He has about 8 pages to fill up. Dave is expecting a write up from George Heltz on his bridge project and his funding needs.

Dave put in a page for Carol about her upcoming Cross-country ski trip. He is also waiting on an article from Bob Lasher.

Pete noted that he had a request for a newsletter to be mailed out. Dave will add Gil Holtz to his newsletter mailing list.

(Newsletters now have limited print copies, available at the library, town hall, village hall and some sponsor locations. Anyone can access past and current newsletters on the VHT website.)

TRAILMASTER: Carol MacInnis
No Report

East Victor Road – Potential Development

Dave and Chauncy met with Brian Emelson and Gregg Richards to discuss a potential development on East Victor Road, on the Auburn Trail, near the golf course. The proposal is to put 28 homes on a little over 13 acres. Brian write a letter to the Planning Board with recommendations and is looking for an endorsement from VHT as well as the Parks & Recreation Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Dave noted that he went to the Planning Board meeting and the Developer was receptive to the suggestions from Brian. We will see if they update their maps/plans to show the trails and the elevations.

Valentown Property

Chauncy noted that he received a call from the Genesee Land Trust and the owner of the property on Valentown Road. They wish to discuss how we can put a trail across Valentown Road to the gas line driveway going back to Monkey Run Trails. He will call them and set up a meeting.

The owner is willing to talk to us.

TRAIL BOSS: Chauncy Young

All equipment has been put away, except the mower the Mike Houser cut the access hole into. Mike also added four hooks to the side so that items can be carried. If we like them he will add them to the other mowers.

Dave & Chauncy built a short boardwalk at Lehigh Crossing Park on Sunday, 12/6.

Chauncy received a call from one of Helen Schrader's neighbors. There was a tent in the area and they were unsure of who it belonged to, kids or a homeless person. The Sheriff will be keeping an eye on it.

Scout Projects

- *Kaleb Harp's project is done; he just needs VHT to sign off.*
 - Chauncy has signed off on Kaleb's project.
- *Spencer Kull – a big bridge by the Longhorn restaurant. No recent news from him, probably in the spring. Dave will send him an email to see if he still is interested.*
 - Dave sent an email and Spencer is thinking about another project indoors and will let us know if he is still interested in the bridge after the holidays.
- *George Heltz - a 40' bridge project at Fishbrook/East Victor. George requested VHT post his gofundme account link on our Facebook page. He has a much bigger project and is need of more funds than most. The Board had no issues with putting it on the Facebook page and on the website. His gofundme link is working now.*
 - The fundraiser is this Sunday, 12/20, at UNO's from 11:00am to 11:00pm. There was an article in the Daily Messenger today. Chauncy shared it on the VHT Facebook page. George noted that he has raised \$2,500 in his gofundme account so far. His goal is \$6,000.
- *Niles Masoon – Chauncy sent him an email and received no response.*
 - Nothing new

- *Lori Buggie – She is very interested in doing a project, probably next spring. Her project is a boardwalk on the yellow trail in back of Monroe Muffler off Route 96.*
 - Nothing new

- *Daniel Waldman - He is looking to do the project that Niles Masoon was proposing to do, a bridge near the apple farm, and if Niles is no longer interested he would like to do it. Chauncy & Daniel have not heard back from Niles.*
 - Nothing new

LAST HIKE:

The monthly hike was on December 12th at Ontario County Park. There were 6 hikers. They hiked on the newest trails by GROC. The hike was led by Dave and was 4+ miles and lasted about 2 hours. Dave passed around maps of the trails.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fisher Memorial Bridge: Update

On Hold - Chauncy will get the paperwork done this year and start construction next year.

Parks and Trails New York, Growing the Grassroots Capacity-Building Grant:

We were awarded the grant of \$2,500. The kick-off meeting was in April. We met with the consultant, Ed Flynn of LaBella Associates. Second meeting with Ed Flynn was on June 18th. Ed is benchmarking other towns and will meet with stakeholders. The Trail Survey was completed. It was available online through Survey Monkey and on the VHT website and the Victor website, as well as the VHT, Town and P&R Facebook pages. Paper copies were available in the VHT Summer Newsletter, the Fall issue of the Town & Village Victor Voice Newsletter, and the Town & Village Halls, the Library, P&R Offices, trail heads and the VHT booth on HAVD. There was a meeting prior to the regular September meeting. There will be one more regular meeting with Ed Flynn and then a public meeting. Chauncy wanted to note that Ed was a bit behind where we wanted to be as he had not met with the stakeholders or done research on comparable towns and parks. Ed had said he was swamped with other grants that needed to be done first. A meeting was scheduled on November 19th for him to give us the information on benchmarking with other trail groups & the results of the survey. Once we have his final report and have our public meeting, we should make arrangements to go before the Town Board and give them the results also. The meeting for 11/19 had to be cancelled as Ed hadn't completed what he was planning on doing: talking to stakeholders & users, benchmark similar towns (looking for cost and man power and dollars to maintain trails in similar areas). A meeting was scheduled for 12/16/15.

Dave noted that we had a good meeting with Ed Flynn last night. Ed passed out the preliminary report. Dave noted that we have some extras here if anyone wants one. After the Strategic Plan is completed, hopefully in February, VHT will make a presentation to the Town Board. After the plan is finalized, then we need to put it in action.

It was mentioned that in the past we had people/organizations that did an Adopt-A-Trail type volunteer work. The organizations went out and did trail work. We could certainly do that again, we just need someone to organize it.

Dave noted that there were a lot of good ideas and the challenge will be to put them in motion. We need more volunteers.

Chauncy thought that Ed's PowerPoint presentation finally brought things together. If everyone could please read through the draft plan and look for corrections, typos, and more importantly for things that you would like to see in there that aren't.

Send any suggestions or comments to Dave W or directly to Ed Flynn by January 15, 2016. Our next meeting with Ed will be on Wednesday, January 27th at 6:30pm in the main meeting room at the Town Hall.

Farmington Auburn Trail

Dave W attended a meeting at the Town of Farmington. The primary goal right now is to establish where the property lines are and then send out Bids for construction in the spring. The goal is to have the trail open to the public in 2017.

Dave asked how wide the R-O-W is going to be, Pete said it is 50'. They will design it this winter.

Movie - Run Free

Chauncy received a request to post a movie night in December on the VHT Meetup page. The film, Run Free, will be at the Little Theatre on Wednesday, 12/9, at 7pm. This is just a promotion of the movie. This was posted on the website, Meetup and Facebook.

Dave thought the movie was inspirational and he bought a DVD.

UNO Fundraiser

Dave suggested a fundraiser at UNO's next year possibly in January/February/March. UNO's provides up to 20% of all check totals during the fundraising event.

Dave filled out an application but did not fill in a date. Should we do a week night or a weekend? Everyone thought a Saturday would be better. The weather might be better in late March. Dave will find out if March 19th is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave noted that VHT received a 'Save the Date' notice from the ADK Expo. We plan on participating again this year. There is an opportunity to be listed in their Geneseean Magazine. The cost is \$5 to be listed and advertise in the magazine. VHT also wishes to be listed in their program for a hike. It was decided to do a 2 hour hike at 10:00am on June 11, 2016. Dave will send an email that VHT will definitely participate and lead a hike.

VHT received a notice from the American Hiking Society that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been reauthorized for 3 years through the end of 2018. The fund is almost 50% more than in 2015. The additional funding will help protect more trails and parks.

Dave passed around the following:

Parks & Trails New York Newsletter

Christmas card from Marcia Bryan

Backpacker Magazine

Wayne County Trailworks Newsletter

End of Year Letter from Rich & Sue Freeman

VHT will need to reorder more brochures as we are low. After last night's meeting there will be some revamping of the brochure. Possibly take out a lot of the verbiage and also the application, just direct them to the website. We will probably keep the map.

Paul suggested a QR code on the brochure boxes. There are codes on some of the boxes. It would be nice if the QR code was specific to that particular trail where the box is located.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dave noted that we need to elect the officers for 2016. Dave has not contacted Jeff, but is hoping that he will continue on as Vice Chairperson. Dave will stay on as Chairperson, if that is ok. Barb just came on as Treasurer so hopefully she will continue for a year. Suzy agreed to continue on as Secretary.

Since there was only a single candidate for each elected position, the Chairperson asked the Secretary to cast a single vote for the slate of officers for 2016: Jeff Hennick, Vice Chairperson; Dave Wright, Chairperson; Barb Cole, Treasurer; Suzy Paquin, Secretary.

Motion to approve the slate of Officers for 2016 by Dave W, seconded by Chauncy -
Approved

Dave W asked when Pete takes his Oath of Office for the Town of Farmington. Pete said it will be on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at the Farmington Town Hall at 7:00pm. They will be going to Eddie O'Brien's afterwards. He officially takes over on January 1st.

NEXT HIKE:

The next hike is on Saturday, January 9th, at Mendon Ponds Park. Meet at Quaker Pond Trail Head parking lot at 9am.

Chauncy noted that he won a \$25 gift certificate from Apparel Printers Plus and will put that towards our next purchase of shirts. It has to be used by March 16, 2016.

Pete talked about a raffle that another organization held where they had different prizes and you bought a raffle ticket and put it in for the prize you were interested in. Dave thought that might be a good idea for Hang Around Victor Day where a lot of people go by. Get some local businesses to donate some prizes and sell raffle tickets for the baskets. Tickets could be sold for \$1 a ticket, 5 for \$3 and an arm's length for \$10.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at Victor Town Hall.

The next Consultant meeting with Ed Flynn will be on Wednesday, January 27th, at 6:30pm in the main meeting room at the Town Hall.

The Organizational Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 9th, before the hike, at Chauncy's house at 7:30am.

Dave explained to Barb that this was the annual transition meeting where the old & new officers come and transfer information. Start the year off on the right track. Significant others are welcome.

Motion to adjourn was made by Pete at 9:04pm and **seconded** by Chauncy.

Respectfully submitted by Suzy Paquin

Schedule of 2016 Hikes/Outings:

- January 9th – Mendon Ponds, Quaker Pond Trail Head
- February 13th – Domine/Fishers Park/Auburn Trail, start at Fishers Fire House 1

- March 12th – Dryer Road Park
- April 9th – MaryFrancis Bluebird Haven/Monkey Run Trails
- May 14th – Boughton Park
- June 4th – National Trails Day
- June 11th – Mendon Ponds Hike / ADK Expo
- July 9th – Bike Ride – TBD
- August 13th – Conklin Gully
- September 10th – *HAVD* - Victor Municipal Park/Trolley/Auburn/Ganondagan
- October 8th – Finger Lakes Trail – Bristol Hills Branch
- November 12th – Valentown to Woodcliff & back
- December 10th – Meet at Lehigh Crossing Park - Lehigh/Auburn/Trolley