

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
MEETING AT VICTOR TOWN HALL
May 21, 2015

ATTENDANCE: Dave Wright, Chauncy Young, Pete Ingalsbe, Ralph Weber, Wizzy Geno, Carol MacInnis, Dave Coleman, Suzy Paquin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Elly Dawson

Meeting called to order by Dave Wright at 7:31p.m.

Elly Dawson, Director, Victor Farmington Library

Elly stated that she was taking every opportunity to speak to groups in the community about the vote initiative that will be on a ballot on Tuesday, June 23rd, from Noon to 8:00pm. The voting will take place at the Library for any voter in the Victor School District.

The plan is to ask the community to begin to support the library directly, with the vote this year, for the first time. They are asking for \$455,144. They are now funded by the Towns of Victor and Farmington. Currently they receive \$379,000 in municipal support. Any municipality receives a lot of unfunded mandates, things that they have to do, but they don't have to fund a library. While there has never been an issue, the concern is that the funding could potentially go away. Three years ago the Library used to receive funding from Ontario County in the amount of \$9,000. That was cut little by little over the three year span. This affected all of the libraries in Ontario County.

If the vote passes, the Library budget amount would be \$455,144 and would stay that amount each year. If more money is needed, there would be a new vote to increase the funding. If the vote for an increase does not pass, the amount remains the same. If the vote passes, they will have a new base amount. The amount per resident appears on their School Tax bill. It does not come out of the School Budget. The amount is based on numbers from the School District about the total assessment and how much the Library needed. It comes to about 19 cents per thousand. For a home in the School District assessed at \$200,000 it would amount to \$39/year, or 75 cents a week. The Library is subject to the Tax Cap Laws. It will not be every resident of Farmington, only those that live in the Victor School District.

A position of Community Services Librarian was created a couple years ago. This position is responsible for all of the adult programming and also the music programs. One of the challenges to the current Library budget is financing this position. In order to fund the position, money has been taken out of reserves. To keep doing this, it would deplete the reserves. One of the things the additional funding would do would be to maintain that position which has proved itself to be very valuable.

The Library has other revenue generating programs: the Fund Drive generates between \$25-30,000/year, Fines and Fees are around \$25,000/year, plus various grants.

If you know of anyone who has questions regarding the library vote, please send them to Elly. They will have ice cream in the afternoon on the day of the vote.

MINUTES of April 16th meeting, **Motion** to approve the minutes by Chauncy, seconded by Carol – **Approved**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ralph Weber

As of 4/30/15:

- ✓ Checking and savings - \$9,825
- ✓ Other assets - \$138
- ✓ Total assets - \$9,963

Note: to date, \$4,277 has been donated to the Nat Fisher Memorial Fund and is included in the savings figure above.

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

MEMBERSHIP: Pete Ingalsbe

There are 272 total memberships and 54 that are due to renew and three names to drop. Wizzy had three new members from EMS Club Days.

PUBLICITY: Dave Wright

Dave updated the phone message for National Trails Day and sent out a press release. Dave W & Chauncy passed out flyers at the Business After Hours Chamber event this evening. Chauncy received the kit with the t-shirts and prizes for NTD. On Friday Chauncy and Wizzy will do the shopping. Chauncy noted that it was also on MeetUp and Facebook. Pete will do an email blast from the membership group. Chauncy will send Pete the NTD flyer.

Dave noted that the next monthly hike is scheduled for Mendon Ponds on June 13th. A press release will be sent out for the hike, after 6/7, with everyone meeting at the VHT tent, which is the 100 Acre Pond Beach parking area. He will then update the phone message.

EDUCATION: Ralph Weber

Ralph was contacted by the Victor Elementary regarding a first grade outing/field trip. The outing/field trip will be on June 8th & 9th at Victor Municipal Park. Wizzy has some volunteers scheduled. It will be from 9:45 to 11:45am. We will need to be there a little earlier to set up some tables. Ralph had some print outs from last year. Ralph will not be able to attend due to work. Wizzy, Carol, Nancy Newberry and Ruth Nellis will be helping out. Wizzy is waiting to hear from Becky Jones if she is available. Ralph noted that Bob Lasher will also be there to help.

Ralph sent out a map of where we will be hiking with everyone meeting at Victor Municipal Park (he will send it out again). Wizzy will walk the trail on Sunday, 6/7, to see what is there to point out to the kids such as poison ivy. If it rains the field trip will take place at the Victor Education Center. Ralph will do flip charts & give to Wizzy.

VOLUNTEERS: Wizzy Geno

Finalizing plans for the first graders outing in June

EMS Club Days - May 2nd and May 3^d

Friday night was slow, Dave W set-up at 1:30 and stayed until 7pm. On Saturday Pete was there in the morning, then Carole Fisher and Wizzy. It was fairly steady and they got 3 new members.

LL Bean - May 16th from 10am to 5pm, theme - camping

Wizzy set-up at 10am, then Carol came and then Carole Fisher. Wizzy broke down at about 4:45pm. It was steady in the morning.

National Trails Day on June 6th - NTD will be out of FLCC Victor Campus and have three hikes. Two short loop hikes and a longer hike to Victor Municipal Park, with transportation back provided by P&R. There will be a raffle at noon.

Itinerary:

Continental Breakfast – 8:30-9am

1st Hike - 9am

2nd Hike – 10:30am

Lunch/Pizza - Noon

3^d Hike - 1pm

Volunteers so far: Wizzy, Chauncy, Carole F, Dave W, Suzy, Carol, Nancy, Dave C, Pete, Larry and possibly Ruth and Becky. She will go grocery shopping on Friday for supplies.

Next she will work on getting volunteers for the ADK Expo.

Wizzy received an email from Caleb Harp regarding a project in Lehigh Crossing Park. She forwarded it to Dave W and Chauncy and Chauncy responded.

NEWSLETTER: Dave Wright

Dave will start working on the summer issue. The next issue will be out around June 21st. He will try to have it finalized around June 18th. We will have a page for a survey about VHT for the grant. Will also have the survey on the website. Any suggestions for articles please send to Dave. There will be info on NTD/ADK Expo/Hikes. Pete said he would try and have Ron Brand give a synopsis on Farmington's Auburn Trail progress. Dave W will ask Bob Lasher if he could do a paragraph or two.

(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 at this time.

She hiked Mertensia Park looking for Bluebells and they were all gone.

TRAIL BOSS: Chauncy Young

Tomorrow morning at 8am they will be working on a little bridge in Lehigh Crossing Park. The bridge will be a 20 ft long, 4 ft wide flat top bridge to replace the existing one that is now covered in water due to beaver activity.

Saturday maintenance will be at Ganondagan going south on County Road 41 through the Apple Farm and back. Wednesday will be at Lehigh Crossing Park. He is focusing on the areas for NTD.

Chauncy is preparing the list of shirts to order for people which will need to be updated. VHT will pay for the tech shirts for the Trail Volunteers. For the golf shirts and the cotton t-shirts VHT will cover half.

Chauncy gave Wizzy volunteer sign-in sheets for recording volunteer hours. This will help to better track how many man hours this organization really puts in.

Chauncy went out and took pictures of the bridge site for Nat's Bridge. Ginny asked if the flyer for Nat's Bridge could be emailed to her. The bottom of the bridge needs to be two feet above the top of the culvert (road level) at Wangum Road. That would be the minimum bottom of the trusses so that if the water backs up at the road, it would still be under our bridge.

LAST HIKE:

The last hike was on the Webster Trails on May 9th. They had very nice signs telling you where you were along the trail. There were four hikers: Dave Coleman, Dave W, Suzy and Chauncy. There were two others out there, Clay & his son Eli, but we missed them. We did Four Mile Creek Nature Preserve, it was about 3 miles and then we went to Gosnell Big Woods and Small Woods Meadow.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Fisher Memorial Bridge: Update*

Funds collected to date are \$4,277

The bridge needs to be done before 10/1, but hopefully it will be done in August.

- *Kyle Bensink - Highpoint trail project:*
Chauncy has finally signed off on the project.
- *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 prior to the meeting. We met with the consultant, Ed Flynn of LaBella Associates.*
Next meeting with Ed will be at 5:30pm before the June 18th meeting.
- *New development in Farmington – Monarch Manor Update:*
Waiting for SHIPO results. There was a meeting last night and there were no complaints from residents.
- *Dave Coleman would like to do a section of the Bristol Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail that he has not completed yet. Dave C will get Dave W information on where to start, where to end, where to park and how far it is. Then we might switch the Keuka Outlet Trail for this one in October.*
Dave C suggested doing the Bristol Branch in three sections, do two this year and one next year.
- *Dave stated that the maps of the trails need to be updated: Printable maps for the Town are still in process. Dave is working with Jeff on this.*
- *On Saturday, August 29, 2015, there will be an ultra marathon on the Finger Lakes Trail-Bristol Branch. It will start at Ontario County Park and finish at Hammondsport High School for a total of 63.3 miles. VHT will provide volunteers to help along the trail with water stations, etc. Dave requested to be assigned a station towards the beginning of the race near Clements Road:*
Chauncy received an email at the meeting: VHT will be at the DEC location, 8th station #3 on Rte 245. Setup will be at 6am and tear down will be by 9am. The first group will probably be around 6:45am, the main group will be between 6:45 and 8:30am, with the tear down around 9am. We will probably need 2-3 volunteers.
- *Annual VHT Audit – We will need three volunteers to do the audit.*
We will do this at the end of the meeting.
- *There will be the 17th Annual Community Leaders Breakfast on Wednesday, April 29th at 6:45am in the Victor Intermediate School cafeteria. Dave cannot attend but Chauncy will go in his place.*
Chauncy was sick and could not go. Pete went and they mostly went over the budget and talked about the sidewalks.

- *Dave met with two Boy Scouts who are interested in doing Eagle projects, Sean Coleman and George Hetzel. He showed them our list of 30 plus projects. Sean would like to do a new trail and George would like to build a bridge or boardwalk.*
- *Sean is interested in an alternate route for the Seneca Trail between Willowbrook and Walmart. George is interested in a bridge/boardwalk. His 1st choice is at Victor Hills/East Victor, 2nd choice is near Longhorn and 3^d choice is in Boughton Park, where the Seneca Trail ends.*

Dave met with Sean Coleman and his mother and hiked from Bassett Furniture back to the picnic table and some of the section that he flagged before. Sean has a good idea of what he needs to do there as far as cut and fill and some clearing and tagging the trails. They drove over to Willowbrook and walked in from there. He will get all the approvals and be ready to do in the fall.

Dave had not heard back from George Hetzel.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave has coupons from EMS: \$20 off if you spend \$100 and \$50 off if you spend \$200, they are good until 6/10/15.

Dave passed around the following:

Pamphlets from EMS & ADK

Adirondack Quest

ADK Magazine

Ontario Pathways

Backpacker

American Hiker

The Geneseean

Chauncy noted that he joined American Trails and now gets their magazine.

Pete stated that yesterday was the deadline for submissions for design proposals for the Auburn Trail. They have received proposals from 9 firms and the Farmington Town Board will make a decision to award a firm for the contract at their second meeting in June.

NEXT HIKE:

The next event will be National Trails Day on Saturday, June 6th. The next regularly monthly hike will be on June 13th at Mendon Ponds. Everyone will meet at the beach parking area.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 18, 2015, 7:30 p.m. at Victor Town Hall.

Due to the lateness of the meeting it was the general consensus of the Board not to review the Treasurer's files for 2014. Additionally, due to Chauncy's impeccable 20 year history as Treasurer, the Board felt there was no need to waste the time of the members by performing the audit.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carol at 8:59pm and **seconded** by Pete.

Respectfully submitted by Suzy Paquin

Schedule of 2015 Hikes/Outings:

- June 6th – National Trails Day, FLCC Victor Campus
- June 13th – ADK Expo/Mendon Ponds Park, hike in the park
- July 11th - Robert H. Treman State Park, Ithaca – weekend campout
- August 8th – Stoney Brook Stat Park
- September 5th – Ring of Fire, evening hike at Bare Hill
- September 12th – Hang Around Victor Day, Village Hike at 11:00am
- September 27th – 5th Annual Challenge Hike
- October 10th – Southerly Section of the Bristol Hills Branch
- November 14th – Boughton Park
- December 12th – Ontario County Park – New north trails