

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
MEETING AT VICTOR TOWN HALL
August 20, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Mikolajczyk, Kaleb & Greg Harp

Meeting called to order by Dave Wright at 7:30p.m.

Scout Presentation

Kaleb Harp with Troop 61 has chosen his project to be at Lehigh Crossing Park. He is proposing a 65' boardwalk in an existing trail that has been flooded out. In addition he will do 100' of trail clearing past the boardwalk.

The boardwalk will be three boards wide with appropriate ramps to accommodate the mowing equipment. He passed around pictures of the site. He estimates the total cost of materials to be \$500-\$600. He will set up a gofundme Account along with a bottle/can drive. He is asking Victor Hiking Trails for a donation of \$250 towards lumber, nails and supplies.

It was suggested that he contact Brian Emelson at Town of Victor Parks & Recreation regarding his project and to keep him in the loop.

Motion by Pete, that VHT will provide a donation equaling \$250, in the form of money or supplies, towards materials for the boardwalk project, seconded by Carol -

Approved

Everyone introduced themselves to Steve Mikolajczyk. He has lived in Victor for 15 years and hikes a lot of the trails. He has seen information about VHT for a long time and is usually busy every Thursday. He was free tonight and thought he would come by and see what the group is all about.

MINUTES of July 16th meeting, **Motion** to approve the minutes by Jeff, seconded by Wizzy, with one correction: Wizzy had not committed to doing the Trail User Survey at the Rte 251-Auburn location – **Approved**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ralph Weber

As of 7/31/15:

✓ Checking and savings - \$7,154

- ✓ Other assets - \$7
- ✓ Total assets - \$7,162

Chauncy suggested that the PTNY Grant be pulled out as a separate line item at this point and can merge it back later. Right now it is unclear as to how much has been spent.

Chauncy suggested sending a check to Lewis Fisher for book sales, \$35.85, from last year.

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

Ralph noted that he has not gotten all the receipts for the credit card, so some of the numbers are not correct; Chauncy will work with Ralph to have them corrected by the next meeting.

Jeff noted that he should be receiving an invoice for the website within the next month or two and will forward to Ralph.

MEMBERSHIP: Pete Ingalsbe

Currently we have 280 on the list with 63 due to be paid. He sent out emails on 8/14. He has a half dozen letters to send out.

PUBLICITY/NEWSLETTER: Dave Wright

The quarterly newsletter, summer issue, is now available. Dave will start working on the fall issue. The next issue will be out around September 21st. Please send any articles to Dave, before the next meeting if possible.

(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.)

EDUCATION: Ralph Weber

No report

VOLUNTEERS: Wizzy Geno

NYS Parks & Historic Preservation Trail Count & Trail Survey

Trail Count needs to be completed on three consecutive workdays, Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday (no Mondays or Fridays), and one weekend day for a total of 8 hours at a location. Another alternative would be one day three weeks in a row and one

weekend day. Times are 5-7pm for weekdays and 11am-1pm on weekends. This is for the Auburn and Lehigh Trails only. Each location would be four sessions at two hours each. There will be a total of six trail count locations: Auburn at Mickey Finns; Auburn at Powder Mill - Woolston Road/Railroad Mills; Auburn at East Victor to the Mertensia townline; Lehigh at Old Dutch Road; Auburn at Route 251; Auburn at Fishers Plaza

There is also a trail survey: There are five boxes placed at the trail heads, paper copies of the survey with return envelopes, business cards with QR Codes that will take people to the online survey.

Carol, Jeff and Dave have completed the surveys at their locations. Pete & Chauncy owe for theirs. Need to find a volunteer for the Rte 251 Auburn spot. We have until the first week of September for the counts to be done. Chauncy will collect the paperwork and mail in.

Hang Around Victor Day

HAVD is on Saturday, September 12th. Wizzy will be looking for volunteers to man the booth. It was decided not to do any fundraising this year. We will put out the donation jar.

Wizzy sent an email. The times are from 10am until 5pm. She has most of the day scheduled; the afternoon looks to have the most open times.

August 29th Race

Volunteers signed up: Bruce & Nancy Fisher, Chauncy & Suzy, Wizzy & Nancy N, Tuck, Ana Liz and Isabel.

Volunteers will meet at the Town Hall at 5:00am and carpool to the race site with arrival time approximately 6:00am. We should be done with our commitment by 9-9:30am.

Scott Magee had asked if it was ok to borrow the VHT tent for another site at the race. The Board had no problem with loaning out the tent.

Jeff asked if VHT had acknowledged the receipt of a \$400 check from #TrailsRoc for a previous race. This was a Half Marathon from Valentown to Perinton and back in July.

The Board asked Ralph to send a thank you letter to #TrailsRoc for their donation.

EMS Club Days - September

Dave received an email from Dennis Walsh, store manager at the Pittsford EMS, with a proposed contract. They are looking for VHT to ok and sign and send back. Dave had sent the contract out and asked for feedback. EMS is looking to have partnerships with

non-profit organizations. Dave read from the contract what the rewards of partnering with EMS would be.

Motion by Chauncy, to respectfully decline this contract, seconded by Jeff - **Approved**

Eddie Bauer, July – Camping/Backpacking Demo, 1 hour

Eddie Bauer is looking for an hour long camping/backpacking demonstration. Not sure if this would be something we could do.

No word from them-event has passed.

TRAILMASTER: Carol MacInnis

No Report

Chauncy said that he has something for Carol. When doing trail maintenance at 100 Acre Woods, we were at the top where we thought the trail ended when we ran into Thomas Shortleaf, who is a nearby property owner, and he was very open to the idea of continuing the trail through to Fox Hunt Drive. He gave Carol a copy of the map.

Carol would need to call on property owners on Fox Hunt Drive to formalize access to the trail in 100 Acre Wood from the point where the trail ends now to the cul-de-sac on Fox Hunt Drive.

TRAIL BOSS: Chauncy Young

We've been very busy. We just completed the 44th trail maintenance yesterday. On average, the numbers of volunteers that attend are: 3.8 on Mondays, 6.2 on Wednesdays and 3.4 on Saturdays.

Note: minutes of 7/16 will be corrected to reflect the correct averages for attendees.

He is still looking into whether to change the time of maintenance on Mondays to the evening or possibly moving Saturday morning to a week night for next year.

The time on Mondays has been changed to 7am. Wednesdays will be 5:30pm due to loss of daylight hours. Saturdays will also be changed to 7am.

The oldest mower is not working. He needs a hole cut in the decking to be able to access the belts easier. He requested a quote from Mike Houser for this. Jeff suggested also adding rings to the deck to make it easier to secure items to the top of the mower. The quote is for \$150-200 to do the cut.

Motion by Chauncy to have a hole cut into the deck of the Billy Goat mower to create better access of the belts and add rings for securing items, not to exceed \$250, seconded by Pete - **Approved**

Chauncy passed out new trail volunteer shirts to Ralph and Pete. The long/short sleeve golf shirts are on order.

Scout Projects

- *Sean Coleman, Chauncy has not heard from him. His project is the trail behind Walmart/Willowbrook. He plans to start in the fall.*
Dave expects to hear from him in October
- *Caleb Harp's project is a boardwalk and trail clearing in Lehigh Crossing Park.*
Made presentation at beginning of meeting
- *Niles Mason, from Pittsford, needs one shovel ready project to be completed by September 30th. Chauncy will be meeting with him.*
Chauncy walked with Niles & his father behind the Apple Farm, he looked at the boardwalk and the small bridge, Chauncy will follow up with him
- *George Heltz – we have a quote for the 40' bridge project to be done at Fishbrook/East Victor.*
Dave signed off on his workbook. He would like to do it in the fall, is in the process of fundraising
- *Laura Buggie, Girl Scout/Gold Award – Chauncy will be meeting with her on July 20th.*
Chauncy hasn't heard back from her yet. Her project is behind Fishers Landing, the yellow trail, to get that reopened.

Dave met with Spencer Kull today. He wants to do a bridge down by the Longhorn. He is in the process of getting approvals and pictures. Dave told him to contact Chauncy for like designs of bridges.

His Troop is also looking for some community service conservation work. Dave took him to the Auburn at Route 251. They walked down to where the trail cuts off into the woods and where it is difficult to mow due to big rocks in the ground. They will come back Saturday afternoon and possibly Sunday morning with pickaxes and shovels to get the rocks out, fill in the holes and then smooth it off. Dave also asked them to bring loppers to trim the trail back where there is a wet area.

LAST HIKE:

The last hike was in Stony Brook State Park on August 8th. There were four hikers. It was a good day.

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 prior to the meeting. We met with the consultant, Ed Flynn of LaBella Associates. Had the second meeting with Ed Flynn before the June 18th meeting. Ed is benchmarking other towns and will meet with stakeholders. The Trail Survey is completed. It is available online through Survey Monkey and available on the VHT website and the Victor website, as well as posting on the VHT, Town and P&R Facebook pages. Paper copies will be available in the VHT Summer Newsletter, the Fall issue of the Town & Village Victor Voice Newsletter, and hard copies at the Town & Village Halls, the Library, P&R Offices, trail heads and at the VHT booth on HAVD.

We are in the process of doing the survey and encouraging everyone to take it. The next meeting with Ed Flynn will be before the VHT meeting on 9/17 from 5:30-7:30pm. VHT will provide dinner.

Chauncy noted that he has submitted a report to PTNY, which was due on 8/13. In it he outlined the first two meetings, stated that Ed is to review his research into communities to use for benchmarking, listed the various stakeholders Ed is to be contacting, indicated that we are a little behind schedule, and that we are also participating in the NY Parks & Historic Preservation 2015 Trail Count and Survey.

Auburn Trail/Farmington

Pete gave an update on the Auburn Trail progress in Farmington. There was a meeting between Farmington and Canandaigua to talk about the stretch along the Canandaigua/Farmington Townline Road. There will be another meeting to work out the metes and bounds and easements that will be needed. They are looking to clear the land on the railroad bed itself from County Road 41 down to Route 332 so they can start to survey.

Chauncy suggested using the ADK Group for trail clearing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave noted an article that Jeff sent out on the trails in Pittsford. Pittsford Supervisor, Bill Smith, talked about their great trail maps and that he was going to get out and hike.

We received an email from Brian Emelson regarding the Auburn Hills development. There is to be a new trail through the development and Brian wanted to know if it would be maintained by P&R or VHT. If the trail is wide enough then P&R can maintain it, if not then VHT would do it. It might possibly need some trees or fencing for a buffer.

There will be a Nat Fisher Memorial Golf Outing on Sunday, 9/20, at Parkview Fairways. Starts at 9:00am and cost per person is \$45. *Note: Suzy to send the flyer to Jeff, Pete and Ralph.*

Mural – It is coming along nicely. Emily is on vacation now. Not sure how much more will be done before she goes back to school. We had invited her to come to the meeting tonight to see if there is anything we can do to help her. It looks like it will continue on into 2016. Any portions that are deemed complete, it would be nice to put a protective cover on it. Dave will send her an email.

Chauncy noted that in the City Newspaper they have a volunteer section under Employment, Career/Career Training. Maybe we can come up with something to use and put it in the Messenger, Victor Post or the PennySaver once in a while.

Dave passed around the Backpacker Magazine.

Dave noted that he went to the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event at Biaggi's this evening. He talked with Trisha Turner, Community Liaison for Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb and talked about the scout projects & events. She said to send her any news & events for posting on the Victor NY Facebook page.

Challenge Hike

Originally scheduled for Sunday, 9/27. Dave and Chauncy were kicking around some ideas for something different, but still a challenge.

Chauncy outlined a new route:

Start at Dryer Road Park, hike there, then go to Fort Hill, do the top loop, then go to School Street, CR 41 to the Apple Farm, Boughton Park, back to Ganondagan, possibly tour the visitor's center, back to Fort Hill, Dryer Road Park and back to the cars. It will be about 16 miles. Start time would still be 8:00am, but change the date to Saturday.

The advantages would be: plenty of parking; no need for a bus; and bathrooms. VHT has reserved the pavilion for a pot-luck picnic after the hike and we should be back around 1:30-2pm. Volunteers will need to be on call in case anyone wants to leave the hike. Everyone agreed to change the date to Saturday, 9/26.

NEXT HIKE:

The next hike will be a special evening hike in Canandaigua at Bare Hill for the Ring of Fire. This will be an evening hike. A press release will be sent out with everyone meeting at the Town Hall at 5:30 pm. Bring a snack, chairs or a blanket and a flashlight. At 9pm they light the bonfire and Peter Jemison tells the history of Bare Hill. We are usually done by 10-10:30pm.

The next monthly hike will be on September 12th at HAVD. Everyone will meet at the booth at 11:00am. We will have a short hike around the Village, out to Victor Municipal Park and back. We should be back by 12-12:30pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, 2015, 7:30 p.m. at Victor Town Hall. Dave W will not be present, Jeff will lead the meeting.

There will be a meeting with Ed Flynn prior to the regular meeting starting at 5:30pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Pete at 9:05pm and **seconded** by Jeff.

Respectfully submitted by Suzy Paquin

Schedule of 2015 Hikes/Outings:

- September 5th – Ring of Fire, evening hike at Bare Hill
- September 12th – Hang Around Victor Day, Village Hike at 11:00am
- September 26th – 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