

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
MEETING AT VICTOR TOWN HALL
February 18, 2016

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

OTHERS PRESENT: George Heltz, Boy Scout Troop 61, George Cretekos and George Heltz Sr.

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

Everyone introduced themselves.

MINUTES of January 21st meeting, **Motion** to approve the minutes by Chauncy, seconded by Wizzy – **Approved**

Eagle Scout Project

George Heltz passed around a brochure he created describing his Eagle Scout bridge project along the Auburn Trail across Fish Creek. He proposes to build a 40' bridge with 20' ramps on both ends. The cost is approx. \$5-6,000 and he has raised \$4,700 so far. He feels he might be maxed out and is here to ask the Board for up to \$1,000 in additional funds to help finish his goal. Any excess money and materials will be donated back to VHT.

Chauncy suggested contacting the Victor-Farmington Rotary for funds. Other sources to contact are Brian Emelson, Victor Parks & Recreation; Victor-Farmington Kiwanis; North Face; LL Bean and EMS.

Suzy will email George some contacts for Rotary & Kiwanis.

George would like to start on his project as soon as the snow melts and complete it before summer. His deadline is December when he turns 18.

Joe Logan has seen the site. George needs a drawing from Joe and would like help filling out the DEC application.

Motion to allocate up to \$1,000 towards George's bridge project by Chauncy, with the stipulation that George will solicit other sources as well, seconded by Carol - **Approved**

Dave asked Chauncy to send an email to Mr. Logan asking if he needs anything more and to let him know of George's timeline.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barb Cole

As of 1/31/16:

- ✓ Checking and savings - \$7,155
- ✓ Other assets - \$0
- ✓ Total assets - \$7,155

The Town paid the insurance from Selective for \$610.

Barb noted that Paul Nothnagle paid her \$20 for membership, \$20 for shirt and \$10 because he was late.

She also issued a check to Pete for stamps and one for the Frontier bill for the voicemail line.

Motion to approve payment of the LaBella invoice for \$1,000, final payment towards the PTNY Grant, discounted to maximum cost, by Chauncy, seconded by Ralph - **Approved**

Dave noted that Chauncy has already made a presentation of the Draft Strategic Plan to the Town Planning Board. Dave was going to present to the Conservation Board on Tuesday but the meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm. The next Conservation Board meeting is on March 1st and Chauncy will be able to present.

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

MEMBERSHIP: Pete Ingalsbe

Pete was absent, but emailed his report to Suzy & Chauncy.

Membership is at 273 with 57 due to renew. He noted that it was interesting to get two new members east of Ontario County. He has about 15 member renewal cards to send out.

Note: Suzy to make more membership cards for Pete

Chauncy noted that the Meetup membership is up to 351.

PUBLICITY & NEWSLETTER: Dave Wright

Dave updated the message line for the Dryer Road Park Hike on March 12th. Meet at the Dryer Road Park trailhead at 9:00am. The hike will be on the trails in the park as

well as trails at Fort Hill & Ganondagan State Historic Site covering about six miles in 3 hours.

Dave is working on the spring issue of the newsletter and it will be out around March 21st. Please send any articles to Dave.

For the newsletter, Dave will need:

- The Trail Maintenance schedule
- National Trails Day details
- Bridge construction info
- Fundraiser at UNO's

Dave will ask Bob Lasher for an article.

(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.)

Dave, Suzy & Chauncy attended the P&R Winterfest and Open House on 2/13 at the new P&R facility. They had a very nice turnout considering it was a very cold day. They had fireworks at 6pm.

EDUCATION: Ralph Weber

Ralph has coordinated an educational hike at Ganondagan along with a group tour of the new Seneca Art & Culture Center. This will be an additional hike. The date has been set for March 26th. It will take place from 9am to Noon. There will be a group rate of \$5 per person to tour the facility and a \$25 deposit along with a guided hike.

Note: Barb writing the check to Friends of Ganondagan and Chauncy will deliver it for Ralph.

Ralph noted that Peter Jemison will be our guide and we will see a movie and then go on a tour. We will meet in the Seneca Art & Culture Center parking lot.

Note: Ralph will send Dave a paragraph for a press release and to Chauncy for Meetup and Facebook.

Ralph coordinated a second educational hike for Mees Observatory in Bristol. They have regular scheduled tours on Friday and Saturday nights in June, July & August. There is a maximum of 25 people, there is no charge, and we have been penciled in for a night hike and tour. We need to pick a weekend with no moon and hopefully no clouds. Ralph suggested that we have dinner at Brew & Brats in Naples before the tour and a hike in the woods before it gets dark. The tour would be from approx 8-9:30pm.

They will not formalize their schedule until March/April, and then we will have a date.

VOLUNTEERS: Wizzy Geno

Volunteers will be needed for the fundraiser at UNO's on Saturday, 3/19. We will have a table and will need people for 2-hour shifts from 11:00am to 11:00pm. We will set up a display, donation jar, and have membership applications.

Dave had some flyers and vouchers printed and passed them around to everyone to take some and pass out.

Note: We are still looking to find a replacement for Wizzy's role as Volunteer Coordinator. Dave will put something in the newsletter and also on the website and Facebook.

TRAILMASTER: Carol MacInnis

No Report

TRAIL BOSS: Chauncy Young

Fisher Memorial Bridge: Update

Chauncy needs to take more pictures, write the narrative and get the permit going.

Chauncy has been working on the bridge paperwork. He has drawn a sketch, written the narrative and filled out the application for the permit. It will need to go to the Building Department and the State for permits. It is in Brian's hands to see if it will need SEQR.

Dave stated that VHT will be applying for a grant from the American Hiking Society towards the Nat Fisher Bridge.

Chauncy had posted a poll on Meetup regarding trail maintenance. Eight people took the poll (two of them being Chauncy).

It looks like trail maintenance sessions this year will be on Monday/Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. Weekends will be for projects.

Scout Projects

- *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.*

- Nothing new
- *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. George noted that he has raised \$4,700 so far. His goal is \$6,000.*
 - George is requesting additional funds.
- *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 behind 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

Chauncy noted that Dan may consider doing a boardwalk (beaver bridge) in Lehigh Crossing Park

LAST HIKE:

The monthly hike was on February 13th at Fishers Park/Auburn & Domine Trails. There were seven hikers. It was very cold and we tried to stay out of the wind. We did about 5 miles with a nice break at Chauncy's house to warm up with cocoa and coffee.

OLD BUSINESS:

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 was on June 18th, third prior to the regular September meeting, fourth on November 19th. Once we have the final report and the public meeting, we will go before the Town Board and give them the results also. The fifth meeting for 11/19 had to be cancelled. The meeting was rescheduled for 12/16/15, where we received the preliminary report. After the Strategic Plan is completed, VHT will make a presentation to the Town Board. After the plan is finalized, then we need to put it in action. The sixth and final meeting with Ed was on Wednesday, January 27th.

We are finished except for presentations of the Draft Strategic Plan to various boards. We will hold a public meeting to see if we can get any additional input from the public. The final presentation will be to the Town Board hopefully in March.

The public meeting for additional input, will be on Thursday, 3/10, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall main meeting room. We will have light refreshments.

UNO Fundraiser

The fundraiser at UNO's is scheduled for March 19th. UNO's provides up to 20% of all check totals during the fundraising event. Dave emailed the flyer and coupons to everyone.

Donation

Dave received an email from someone saying that recently one of their co-workers had passed away and they asked the family if they could make a donation to an organization and the family said yes, 'make it to Victor Hiking Trails.'

A donation was received on behalf of Hans Wolff for \$150.00 who passed away on 12/20. The donation came from the co-workers at Carestream Health in Canandaigua to be used for the Auburn Trail. *We can use it towards the George Heltz bridge project.*

Victor Brewery Donation

Ralph asked if a thank you letter was sent to Victor Brewery for their generous donation. Chauncy will write the letter.

American Hiking Society Grant

The American Hiking Society Grants for this year can apply now through February 19th. Would we have a specific project to apply the grant to? We could use for the Fishers Park Bridge. We need a sketch of the project, the cost, and how it will benefit the community. Chauncy will send to Dave to complete the application.

Dave has received all information from Chauncy to send in the application.

National Trails Day

Once we decide on what we will be doing for National trails Day, Dave will register for the event.

It was decided to use the new P&R facility for the headquarters and Brian Emelson has given permission. We will start with a Continental Breakfast, then have a total of three hikes, two in the morning, a pizza lunch and then one in the afternoon. One of the hikes will possibly be to Pinnacle. Dave will get with Chauncy to finalize the hikes for the newsletter article and then the press release.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave passed around the following:

Ontario Pathways

Canalway Trail Times

20th Annual Bike Ride on the Erie Canal – Parks & Trails NY on 7/10-17, 400 miles

Northern Tool Catalog

Victor Chamber Member – thank you for renewing letter

New Map of Dryer Road Park trails

Scout Ridge Subdivision

VHT received a Distribution from the Town Planning Board, Projects for Possibility of Trails – Scout Ridge Subdivision, on Dryer Road near the Park entrance. Chauncy noted that the property has no connectivity to the Auburn Hills subdivision on Route 251. He suggested, to Brian Emelson & Katie Evans, talking to the adjacent property owners that border with the Auburn Hills subdivision for the possibility of having a trail on their property that would connect over to Dryer Road.

Dave noted that Jeff Hennick sent an email with some interesting bicycle/pedestrian counts from Florida – 20% bicycles and 80% pedestrians; of the bicycle riders, 70% were male and 30% were female; of the pedestrians, it was 54% male and 46% female; and they also have some trails that go right through the middle of some towns.

NEXT HIKE:

The next hike is on Saturday, March 12th, at Dryer Road Park. Meet at the Dryer Road Park trailhead at 9:00am. The hike will be relatively easy on the trails in the park as well as trails at Fort Hill & Ganondagan State Historic Site covering about six miles in 3 hours.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 17, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at Victor Town Hall.

Public Meeting - Thursday, 3/10, at 7:00pm at Victor Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Chauncy at 8:38pm and **seconded** by Carol.

Respectfully submitted by Suzy Paquin

Schedule of 2016 Hikes/Outings:

- March 10th – Public Meeting on Strategic Plan at Town Hall, 7:00pm
- March 12th – Dryer Road Park
- March 19th – Fundraiser at UNO's
- March 26th – Educational Hike at Ganondagan & Tour
- April 9th – MaryFrancis Bluebird Haven/Monkey Run Trails
- April 23rd – Arbor Day Celebration w/Village Tree Board
- May 14th – Boughton Park
- June 4th – National Trails Day – P&R, 7891 Lehigh Crossing
- TBD (June/July/August) – Mees Observatory, Educational tour & hike
- June 11th – Mendon Ponds Hike / ADK Expo
- July 9th – Bike Ride – TBD
- July ? – Boughton Park Hike w/Genesee Land Trust
- August 13th – Conklin Gully
- September 3rd – Ring of Fire Hike ??
- September 10th – *HAVD* - Victor Municipal Park/Trolley/Auburn/Ganondagan
- September 25th – Challenge Hike - TBD
- October 8th – Finger Lakes Trail – Bristol Hills Branch
- November 12th – Valentown to Woodcliff & back
- December 10th – Meet at Lehigh Crossing Park - Lehigh/Auburn/Trolley