

VICTOR HIKING TRAILS
MEETING AT VICTOR TOWN HALL
January 21, 2016

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Rhodes, Village Trustee & Tree Board Liaison; Gene Pratt, Chairman Village Tree Board; Philip Ozminkowski, Sealand Contractors/Pinnacle Athletic Complex

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

Victor Tree Board

Larry Rhodes noted that the Village Tree Board was conceived as a result of the less than favorable tree pruning done by RG&E on the trees along Maple Avenue. Now that the Village has an ordinance in place regarding the pruning of trees in the Village, they have turned their focus from protecting the older ones and cutting down the dead ones to planting some new trees. The Village has hired an Arborist and he has identified an area on School Street that is in need of trees, from the Village line to the intersection of Rawson Road/School Street. The Tree Board only has jurisdiction over the right-of-way, not on private property, and any Village Parks. There is an area near the intersection, a triangle piece owned by the Village, which they envision to be 'park-like' with more trees and maybe a bench or two and a kiosk.

They have three students from VCS that are on the Tree Board and they are working on an Arbor Day Celebration, for April 2016, which would focus on that triangle area. Since the triangle is near the trails on Rawson Road/School Street, the Tree Board wanted to let the VHT Board know that this would be happening and get any ideas or input that they might have. They are still in the planning stages and will have an Arbor Day Celebration this year, but the project is for next year and beyond. The Arbor Day Celebration would be the kick-off event. An idea might be to have an Eagle Scout project incorporated in the triangle and maybe VHT could help with that.

Gene stated that the project potentially has three different phases to it. They will be looking for potential grant money from the State. The grants that they would be pursuing would be 25% matching. Gene asked the best way of communication between VHT and the Village Tree Board. Dave said to send any emails to him, chair@victorhikingtrails.org .

Philip Ozminkowski suggested maybe a fundraising event such as an Arbor Day 'Fun Run' to get families & little kids involved. The location is right near the trails, set up a sign-up table to collect an entry fee and incorporate the celebration together with a

fundraiser. Maybe have a simple concession stand. Arbor Day is on April 22nd. It can begin and end in the triangle area.

Dave suggested maybe Bristol's or Ted Collins might donate a tree. They might also donate smaller trees for give-a-ways. Possibly contact Ontario County as they have the Tree & Shrub Program where you can get large quantities to possibly give away free or for a donation.

Philip Ozminkowski, Sealand Contractors/Pinnacle Athletic Complex

Philip stated that they are looking to have more outdoor recreational events at the Pinnacle Athletic Complex. There is a lot of area that is currently unused, some of it is slated for future development. They would like to put almost a mile or two of trails inside the complex that would be multi-use trails, mountain biking & hiking. This would enable them to host events there. They would tie-in their trails to the existing trails in Fishers Park along with the Lehigh/Auburn. They would trade in-kind services in order to use the trails, such as helping out with maintenance.

Dave mentioned that over the years they have had a great partnership with Victor Parks & Recreation as far as maintaining trails. Victor P&R takes care of the trails on Town property and VHT takes care of the trails on private property. VHT is always looking for partnerships to help promote the trails and get more people out on the trails.

Chauncy mentioned a few years ago there was an event called the Black Diamond Duathlon which was a bike and run. The run was in Fishers Park and the biking was on the Auburn and Lehigh trails mostly. The major sponsor went away and so did the event. Maybe it could be reinstated with Pinnacle as the major sponsor and have it start and end at the Pinnacle Complex. It would be a good opportunity with enough space to keep the two groups separate.

Philip noted that he was casually appointed the Outdoor Project Manager. Indoors at Pinnacle they are currently doing volleyball, pickleball and soccer. Philip noted that he did the 3D model for Pinnacle and helped out with a lot of the survey work.

Dave asked if there was access to the Lehigh & Auburn trails from the facility. Philip said that would be the first order of business as he would like to keep people off the road. Dave outlined the grant that VHT received and the work that is currently being done with the Consultant. Dave invited Philip to attend the next Consultant meeting on Wednesday, 1/27.

Dave stated that VHT definitely wants to work & partnership with Pinnacle. He suggested that maybe we could use the facility for National Trails Day on the first Saturday in June. This is VHT's big event for the year. Chauncy agreed and also suggested the new P&R facility, maybe use both.

Philip inquired on the designing of trails, which is an area that they are lacking. Dave noted that there are general guidelines on the VHT website. It depends on the use of the trail and needs to be sustainable with easy maintenance.

MINUTES of December 17th meeting, **Motion** to approve the minutes by Pete, seconded by Carol – **Approved**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barb Cole

Barb was absent, but provided copies of the financials to Suzy. Chauncy passed around the financials.

As of 12/31/15:

- ✓ Checking and savings - \$7,154
- ✓ Other assets - \$0
- ✓ Total assets - \$7,154

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

Chauncy noted that Barb had a question on the American Hiking Society membership renewal. Last year the dues were \$75 and this year the minimum is \$112.50 for the Bronze level membership.

Motion to renew the American Hiking Society membership dues at the \$112.50 Bronze level by Chauncy, seconded by Wizzy – **Approved**

Note: Dave asked Suzy to let Barb know to pay the American Hiking Society membership.

MEMBERSHIP: Pete Ingalsbe

Pete stated that the membership is 266 with approximately 60 due for payment. With the payments that he received tonight, it is down to about 55. He sent out renewal letters on January 14th.

Chauncy noted to Philip that VHT does have a Corporate Membership level of \$100. At the Corporate level all the employees would receive a free membership and also receive the Pathfinder Newsletter via email. There are plans to restructure the membership levels.

Chauncy noted that there are 324 members on the Meetup site.

Dave received a response from Linda Smith, who along with her husband were charter members and have been ever since, saying "thank you I am unable to donate at this point, but I appreciate what you do and wish you the best."

Dave would like to keep her as a member and not have her pay dues since she has been a member for so long.

Motion to make Linda Smith a lifetime member by Dave, seconded by Chauncy -
Approved

Dave asked that Pete send Linda a note saying that she can continue to be a member but not pay any dues.

PUBLICITY: Dave Wright

Dave updated the message line for the Fishers Park/Auburn & Domine Trail Hike on February 13th. Meet at the Fishers Fire House #1 at 9:00am. The hike will be about 6 miles and will be an easy family hike.

Also on that day is the P&R Winterfest & Open House for their new location at 7891 Lehigh Crossing. We will also post on Facebook and Meetup.

There was an article on the donation from the Victor Brewery in the Victor Post and the Daily Messenger.

EDUCATION: Ralph Weber (Ralph was absent, Dave gave his update)

Ralph has been coordinating an educational hike at Ganondagan along with a group tour of the new facility. This will be an additional hike.

- ✓ The date has been set for March 26th. It will be 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.

Ralph coordinated a second educational hike at 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.

VOLUNTEERS: Wizzy Geno

No Report

NEWSLETTER: Dave Wright

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

(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 noted that there will be a meeting at P&R at 1pm this Sunday to discuss George Heltz's Eagle Scout bridge project. George wishes to discuss his project and how it fits in with long range development plans.

TRAILMASTER: Carol MacInnis

No Report

TRAIL BOSS: Chauncy Young

- Dave, Gregg Richards & Chauncy met with George Heltz to take more measurements and pictures of the creek.
- Chauncy received the mower back from Mike Houser with the hole cut and hooks attached.
- Chauncy noted that he would like to set dates for part of the maintenance schedule for next year. Have normal maintenance on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays - saving Saturdays & Sundays for projects. Possibly send out a survey to any members who have checked off that they are interested in helping out with maintenance.
- National Trails Day location, he proposes both P&R and Pinnacle, where to start and end. Have 3 hikes starting and ending in one spot along with the continental breakfast and the pizza lunch.
- The Genesee Land Trust has requested VHT to lead a hike at Boughton Park on a Saturday in July.

What are we going to do with Mile Marker S81? It is currently in Chauncy's driveway. The original was found along the railway. Maybe it can be used in Farmington along the trail somewhere.

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. The Board had no issues with putting it on the Facebook page and on the website. His gofundme link is working now. George noted that he has raised \$2,500 in his gofundme account so far. His goal is \$6,000. He had a fundraiser at UNO's on 12/21. He raised \$530 from UNOs and an additional \$100 from the tip jar.*
 - Meeting is set for Sunday at 1pm at P&R to discuss whether to do ramps or steps. George would like to know the long range plans for P&R.
- *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 January 9th at Mendon Ponds Park. There were 12 hikers. They hiked around Quaker Pond.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fisher Memorial Bridge: Update

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

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

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, we received the preliminary report. 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. 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.

An update will be sent after the meeting. Pizza & cookies will be provided

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.

Pete noted that the survey is done and they are working on the construction specs and are hoping to go to bid this summer. There will be one more meeting on the new Beaver Park and are waiting on the final costs in order to do the grant submission.

UNO Fundraiser

Dave has scheduled a fundraiser at UNO's for March 19th. UNO's provides up to 20% of all check totals during the fundraising event.

- Dave has received the template that he will customize and print.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave noted that he 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.'

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.

Once we talk to Brian about what we will be doing for National trails Day, Dave will register for the event.

Dave passed around the following:

- Parks & Trails NY sent a flyer to let us know that the State will be spending \$300 million dollars through their environmental protection fund to update State Parks.
- Victor Farmington Library flyer of their events
- Brochure from George Heltz on his project
- Quarterly Finger Lakes News
- Backpacker Magazine
- American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations

Chauncy noted that we had a very good Organizational Breakfast at his house.

Dave received an email from Tim Wilbur, President of Ontario Pathways, talking about having a joint event in July, possibly a bike ride. Chauncy outlined several options.

Wizzy noted that she wishes to resign from her position as Volunteer Coordinator. She feels she is not aggressive enough or on Meetup and Facebook. She wanted to let us know so that a replacement can be found. She will see if Ruth Nellis or Becky Jones might be interested in the position.

NEXT HIKE:

The next hike is on Saturday, February 13th, at Fishers Park/Auburn & Domine Trails. Meet at Fishers Fire House 1 at 9am.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, February 18, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at Victor Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chauncy at 9:10 pm and **seconded** by Pete.

Respectfully submitted by Suzy Paquin

Schedule of 2016 Hikes/Outings:

- 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