

PATC North Chapter Spring Meeting
Gypsy Spring Cabin
Arendtsville, PA

Minutes of June 2, 2012

Participants

PATC Officers:

Pete Brown (District Manager, North Chapter)

North Chapter Officers:

Bob Wise (President), Dave Trone (Treasurer), Mary Clark (Secretary)

North Chapter Committee Chairs:

Dewey Clark (Nominations/Coordinated Activities), Bob Creter (Publicity),
Chris Firme (Hikes), Steve Koeppen (Membership), Jim Peterson (Lands)

PATC Members:

Esther Aulhouse, Dave Coover, Michelle Hewitt, Ken May, Peter Muschamp, Bob Oliver,
Linda Oliver, Kathy Seiler, Dee Utz

Ridge Runners:

Robert Freeman, Brian Snyder

Call to Order

PATC North Chapter President, Bob Wise, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Announcements

- Bob Wise introduced the new AT Ridge Runner, Brian Snyder.
- Dedication of Reese Hollow Shelter – Bob Wise received an email from Mark Nelson of REI thanking the North Chapter for work on the shelter, cabins, and other projects. Mark said he appreciates the North Chapter members' time and effort and commended members for all that they do for the trails. Bob commented that the shelter dedication on May 26th went very well. He thanked Dewey and Mary Clark, along with Peter Muschamp for providing food for the event.
- Bob welcomed Mary Clark, the new North Chapter Secretary.
- Bob thanked Michelle Hewitt for serving two terms as Secretary for the North Chapter.

Minutes – The November 5, 2011 minutes were presented and discussed. One correction was noted: change "is now on the Coordinated Activities Committee" to "has served as Chair of the Coordinated Activities Committee" in referring to Dewey Clark's position. The minutes were then approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Trone reported that as of the November 5, 2011 meeting the balance was \$1,918.05. Several transactions were noted. A check for \$75 was sent to the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy for annual membership dues and the North Chapter received an anonymous donation of \$100. The current balance is \$2,093.05. Dave provided a detailed copy of the Treasurer's Report to accompany the June 2, 2012 minutes.

Membership Report – Steve Koeppen stated that we have a roster of 286 members.

Hikes Report – Chris Firme noted that there were two hikes—in February and March.

Publicity Report – Bob Creter said there was nothing new in terms of publicity.

Lands Report – Jim Peterson stated that there were no major land purchases pending. Jim reported on three ongoing lands issues:

1. All real estate transactions are complete for the Reineman Tract. Reineman now owns all of the land in that sector. Jim spoke with the Audubon Society President and the group is willing to enter into a trails agreement with us. We are continuing trail work on the Reineman Tract and planning construction of the Charlie Irvin Shelter.
2. The lumber company has been identified that owns the land to the north of Burd Run Shelter on the “closed” portion of the Tuscarora Trail. Jim plans to meet with the owner and explain that the trail has crossed this land for more than 40 years. Jim will ask if there is a current issue with the trail in this section.
3. We are looking for shelter sites, with a high priority near the southern end of the Tuscarora Trail in PA. Ed Austin, our realtor, is looking for land in that area. Currently from the Reese Hollow Shelter to the next shelter on PATC land in West Virginia is the longest part of Tuscarora Trail without a shelter.

Trails Report – District Manager Comments

- **Pennsylvania** – Pete Brown reported that Dan Smith is now the co-overseer with Robert Freeman on AT section behind Pine Grove Furnace. On the Tuscarora Trail our overseers are doing well, but there are some openings such as from Mountain Road to Route 641. The Tuscarora Forest is looking for volunteers to be shelter overseers at Fowler Hollow. Shelter 1 has a floor and metal roof on it, and they have materials for a roof for shelter 3, which is now our responsibility. On the Bill Miller Trail there is no shelter between the Charlie Irvin Shelter site and the AT, so we will look in that area for a future shelter location.
- **Maryland** – Rick Canter, Maryland District Manager, was not present at this meeting due his attendance at a National Trails Day event.

Nominations & Coordinated Activities – Dewey Clark reported that there are no North Chapter elections this year. In terms of dedications, Dewey spoke with Gene Leese who said that it will be a year before we are ready for a dedication at Little Cove Cabin.

New Business

1. KTA Funding

Bob Wise said that the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) would like the North Chapter to give a per member donation of \$3 in addition to our annual donation. KTA is an advocate for us in Harrisburg, but their funding is being cut by the new Pennsylvania Governor. Every trail club in PA is receiving this same request for additional funds. Pete Brown said KTA thinks their contribution should be based on the number of club members in Pennsylvania. Dewey Clark noted that KTA extends our reach to the PA legislature, DCNR, and others and keeps us informed about what is happening related to PA trails. It was also noted that KTA does not just represent the AT, but the other trails in PA as well. There are 44 trail clubs in PA and KTA has approached all of these clubs to ask for support. After an extended discussion on various approaches to the North Chapter's KTA donation, the following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

Action: Bob Wise will contact Curt Ashenfelter, KTA Executive Director, to determine a reasonable, lump sum contribution and then make a proposal to fund this amount from the North Chapter.

2. Award for Debra Bowman

Bob Wise explained that Debra was very helpful with our work on the Reineman Tract and the Charlie Irvin Shelter. PATC awards are for non-members only, so Bob recommended that since Debra is now a member of the North Chapter we should give her an award from our club. Bob noted that the Charlie Irvin Shelter and the scenic overlook would not be in the planning stages if Debra had not been involved in this effort. She locked Audubon in and the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) granted an easement to PATC, which exists in perpetuity. Debra approached the CPC Board and had them agree to this. The following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

Action: The North Chapter will recognize Debra Bowman's contributions by donating a bench with her name on it, to be placed at the Charlie Irvin Overlook.

3. Honoring Elizabeth Johnson

It was proposed that there be a brief ceremony at the August Corn Roast to honor PATC North Chapter founding member, Elizabeth Johnson. She was also well known beyond the North Chapter. Members agreed that a native redbud tree would be planted at Gypsy Spring Cabin in memory of Elizabeth. Chris Firme will look into purchasing the tree and Kathy Seiler will speak about Elizabeth at the August Corn Roast.

4. Fall meeting date and place – the next meeting of the North Chapter will take place at Gypsy Spring Cabin after the AT work trip on Saturday, November 3rd.

Old Business

PATC Elections – Jim Peterson noted that PATC is electing officers this year. If anyone is willing to serve on the Executive Committee, please let Jim know. Open positions include Vice President for Volunteerism, Secretary, and five Supervisor positions— Facilities, Activities, Membership, Trails, and Communications.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

*Mary Clark, Secretary
PATC North Chapter*