

PATC North Chapter Spring Meeting
Silberman Trail Center

Minutes of December 7, 2013

Participants

PATC Officers:

Rick Canter (Vice President, Membership; District Manager - Maryland)

North Chapter Officers:

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

North Chapter Committee Chairs:

Pete Brown (North Chapter District Manager), Dewey Clark (Nominations & Coordinated Activities), Chris Firme (Hikes), Steve Koeppen (Membership), Jim Peterson (Lands)

PATC Members:

Al Black, Lee Fischbach, Gene Leese, Peter Muschamp, Tom Rostek, Kathy Seiler

Guests:

Barb Black, Barb Leese

Call to Order

PATC North Chapter President, Bob Wise, called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.

Announcements

- Bob Wise notified members that he may be moving out of the area. Someone from the North Chapter is needed to take over as president. Bob will continue to serve until a new president is named.
- Bob explained that John Hedrick, PATC President, would like someone from the North Chapter to serve on the Executive Committee. The open position may be Supervisor of Marketing. Jim Peterson will find out more from John Hedrick. Currently, three North Chapter members attend monthly Council meetings (Pete Brown, Bob Wise, and Chris Firme), but they are not on the Executive Committee.

Minutes – The May 4, 2013 minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report – David Trone reported that the North Chapter had a \$2011.23 balance in May. A payment was made to Esther Aulthouse for the spring meeting food and corn roast expenses. Dave noted that we still have \$403.07 left in PATC funds.

Membership Report – Steve Koeppen stated that the current North Chapter membership is 221, which is the same as our worktrip list.

Hikes Report – Chris Firme said there were no hikes to report for the North Chapter. Chris noted that he has been leading hikes for the Road Scholars group, which had seven hikes last year. This group is involved in the four-state challenge and Chris covers one of those sections.

Publicity Report – Bob Creter was not present.

Lands Report – Jim Peterson described a parcel of land being considered for purchase by PATC. The land is close to PA 16 between Cove Gap and McConnellsburg, and consists of 107 acres. Acquisition of this parcel would protect about .8 mile of the Tuscarora Trail. The owner is asking \$350,000. PATC would offer a lower price and in the future the land could be subdivided. The State Game Commission may be interested in a piece of this land. We have

also been in contact with the State Forester, who expressed interest in the land. Jim said a number of options are on the table to take to Council for acquiring this property.

Trails Report – District Manager Comments

Pennsylvania – Pete Brown clarified that the PATC Supervisor of Marketing position is still open. Pete then reported that the North Chapter AT sections are in good shape, but that one of the Tom's Run shelters had burned down recently. There are suspicions of arson and local authorities are investigating. Apparently a Boy Scout troop has built a covered eating area on the site of the burned shelter.

The Tuscarora Trail has problems due to a lack of overseers. Pete explained that some of our problems maintaining the Tuscarora sections have been due to many worktrips at the Charlie Irvin shelter site. A number of volunteers spent long days carrying heavy timbers for the shelter, over very rough terrain.

In February and March, 2014 Little Cove Cabin will be taken out of the rental system for continued renovations. The bathroom and first floor will be the focus of these early 2014 worktrips.

Pete announced that Dewey Clark is now Assistant District Manager. Dewey may eventually assume the position of North Chapter District Manager.

Two communities recently submitted applications to become trail communities: Waynesboro and Delaware Water Gap. Kathy Seiler gave a great presentation on behalf of Waynesboro, and the committee approved the application. On April 26 there will be a celebration to mark Waynesboro's official designation as an AT community. Kathy Seiler added that Renfrew Park will be the site of the annual Earth Day celebration and Waynesboro's new AT community status. All North Chapter members are encouraged to attend and help with the events.

Maryland – Rick Canter reported that there were many administrative topics discussed at the recent Council meeting, especially relating to the budget. However, the budget looks good and no one's funding will be reduced. Rick mentioned that PATC is looking to add its 7,000th member soon. In terms of the Maryland district, there have been several recent retirements among Maryland park service staff. Rick noted that the Maryland trails are in good shape and a reasonable number of volunteers have been participating in worktrips.

Nominations & Coordinated Activities – Dewey Clark reported that we are having a difficult time finding someone to assume the position of North Chapter president. All other officers wish to continue in their roles. Dewey's position will also be coming open, but he will serve until someone new takes the slot. The proposed slate of current officers was put forward for a vote, and approved unanimously.

Old Business

KTA Donation

Bob Wise said that he had budgeted \$500 last year for our KTA donation. Since we have \$403 left from PATC, the North Chapter could contribute \$100 to meet the \$500 pledge for KTA. Members approved this proposal and Bob noted that a check is needed prior to December 31.

New Business

August Corn Roast

There was discussion about holding the annual North Chapter corn roast at Little Cove cabin. Bob noted some advantages of holding the event there, although the distance may be a problem for some members who only attend AT functions. It was agreed that the August corn roast would be combined with the Little Cove dedication.

Other Topics

Jim Peterson requested that the three North Chapter members watch for items of interest to us when the budget is discussed at Council this coming Tuesday. Funds are needed for road improvements at Little Cove and Silberman, as well as replacement of the Silberman bridge. Jim noted that Mel Merrit's cabins budget includes \$8,000 for Little Cove renovations.

Spring 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, May 3, 2014.

Bob thanked Tom Rostek for providing supper following the meeting.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Mary Clark, Secretary
PATC North Chapter*