

PATC North Chapter Spring Meeting
Gypsy Spring Cabin

Minutes of May 3, 2014

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), Bob Creter (Publicity), Chris Firme (Hikes), Jim Peterson (Lands)

PATC Members:

Esther Aulhouse, Luke Csovelak, Curt Finney, Tawnya Finney, Robert Freeman, Mike Leahy, Ken May, Peter Muschamp, Grant Olson, Tom Rostek, Kathy Seiler, Pat Thomas, Dee Utz

Guests:

Jim Bostic, Rita Boyer, Robert England, Alex Malenka, Mike Malenka, David Tosten

Call to Order

PATC North Chapter President, Bob Wise, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Announcements

- Bob welcomed new PATC members and guests to the meeting.
- Waynesboro, PA--Bob reported on the April 26th celebration of Waynesboro being named an Appalachian Trail Community. Turnout for the event was great and Bob thanked Kathy Seiler, Chris Firme, Tawnya Finney, and Curt Finney for their contributions to this effort.
- Correspondence--Bob mentioned several letters that have been sent on behalf of the North Chapter, including a letter of appreciation to Tommy Sheetz for donating lumber to rebuild Silberman bridge.

Minutes – The December 7, 2013 minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report – David Trone reported that the North Chapter has a balance of \$2,186.23 in our account, following some reimbursements from PATC. Payments since the last North Chapter meeting included the December 2013 meeting food, ATC membership, KTA membership, and Tuscarora Trail sign materials.

Membership Report – Steve Koeppen was not present to provide the membership report.

Hikes Report – Chris Firme said there were no hikes to report for the North Chapter. Chris has been hiking with the elder hostel group.

Publicity Report – Bob Creter had no new information to report.

Lands Report – Jim Peterson noted a major victory to protect the Tuscarora Trail (TT). The state used grant money to purchase the Hawbaker property at Route 16. There was no cost to PATC to acquire this parcel of land.

Jim then described an initiative requested by PATC President, John Hedrick, to document the ownership of all lands along the Tuscarora Trail. There is currently no PATC official record of land ownership along the 254-mile trail. John has established a group representing all PATC districts along the TT to research ownership records and establish a database. This is a long-term project since more than 40% of the trail crosses private lands. In some cases we know the owners, and in other locations we don't have this information. A great deal of information is in the heads of the trail overseers, and it is important to document this before the information begins to disappear.

The new database will provide information to district managers and trail overseers. The database will enable PATC to examine where there may be serious threats to the TT in terms of access over private lands, and also to correct some errors in trail guides for several sections in WV and PA. Jim noted that in the North Chapter, we have been researching land ownership for about eight years.

Trails Report – District Manager Comments

Pennsylvania – Pete Brown said the North Chapter's focus this year has been on construction of the Charlie Irvin shelter and renovations to Little Cove cabin. The upcoming work trip schedule is: first Saturday—AT, third Saturday—Tuscarora Trail, 2nd weekend in June—Little Cove cabin.

The bridge at Silberman Trail Center is being replaced. Tommy Sheetz donated 70 oak timbers for the bridge. Gene Leese and his nephew contributed 22 timbers. Several PATC members are going to Silberman tomorrow to treat the timbers.

Pete noted that the ATC does an AT assessment every five years. This year our sections will be evaluated. Overseers are invited to come along when the ATC does this survey. ATC staff take notes of everything along the trail such as deficiencies, and then document costs needed to make repairs.

Recently Big Flat had an invasive species assessment by Mariam Orlousky of the ATC. A licensed applicator from the forest service will be coming in to treat certain invasive plants with herbicide.

Maryland – Rick Canter said that Maryland trails are getting back in shape after the late winter storms. Crampton Gap shelter has been rebuilt following a fire. This year's thru-hikers are now arriving in Harper's Ferry and Maryland. Overall, the Maryland section of the AT is in good shape.

Nominations & Coordinated Activities – Dewey Clark had no update to report.

Old Business

Little Cove Cabin Dedication

Bob Wise reminded everyone that the cabin dedication will be held on August 2 along with the annual Charlie's Corn Roast.

New Business

Member Recognition

Bob said that the North Chapter would like to recognize Al Black for his contributions. Under Al's guidance, we are currently engaged in three major construction projects—Little Cove cabin, Silberman bridge, and the Charlie Irvin shelter. Al spends a great deal of time on PATC projects in his home workshop and at work trips, not to mention overseeing his AT section and Antietam shelter. Members discussed some options and agreed that we should give Al and his family a weekend at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park. Dewey Clark volunteered to contact the park concessionaire about arrangements.

Waynesboro

Kathy Seiler mentioned that she has slides on her computer from the Waynesboro dedication, to share after the meeting. With the AT Biennial Conference in 2015, there might be activities we could offer in Waynesboro. Kathy asked members for ideas to conduct as part of the 2015 Biennial. The community and PATC would be involved. She also mentioned that there is a commemorative postmark available from the Waynesboro post office to celebrate the town becoming an AT Community.

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 1, 2014.

Bob thanked Esther Aulthouse for providing supper following the meeting.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

*Mary Clark, Secretary
PATC North Chapter*