

**PATC North Chapter Meeting  
Gypsy Spring Cabin**

**Minutes of November 1, 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, Dewey Clark (North Chapter District Managers),  
Chris Firme (Hikes), Steve Koeppen (Membership), Jim Peterson (Lands)

**PATC Members:**

Becky Aulhouse, Esther Aulhouse, Jane Axman, Robert Freeman, Bernie Harris,  
Kevin Kramer, Peter Muschamp, Tom Rostek, Kathy Seiler, Dan Smith, Andy Wolf

**Call to Order**

PATC North Chapter President, Bob Wise, call the meeting to order at 3:25 pm.

**Announcements**

- Bob Wise welcomed new members and congratulated Dan Smith and Jane Axman on completing the Pacific Crest Trail between April and October of this year.
- Pat Thomas needs photos and articles for the North Chapter website.
- The North Chapter had a tremendous year with the dedication of Little Cove cabin, reconstruction of Silberman bridge, and significant work on the Charlie Irvin shelter.
- PATC's Annual Dinner is scheduled for November 18; Bob encouraged all members to attend.
- Bob submitted the 2015 North Chapter budget request, in the amount of \$1,213. We will know if this is approved in December. The Chapter budget for last year was \$985.

**Minutes**

The minutes of May 3, 2014 were approved with one correction. (Marian Orlousky's first name was spelled incorrectly in the draft minutes.)

**Treasurer's Report**

Dave Trone reported that the current checking account balance is \$1,706. Recent expenses included meals at meetings, the through-hiker luncheon, Al Black's gift, and our domain name registration.

### **Membership Report**

Steve Koeppen said that 331 individuals currently receive email announcements for work trips. Several members suggested strategies to increase membership such as contacting those who rent cabins, posting signs at our public cabins, and soliciting members at trail community events. Bob Wise sends a welcome packet to all new PATC members, including information on volunteer opportunities.

### **Hikes Report**

Chris Firme has been hiking with the Roads Scholars group. Tawyna Finney leads hikes with Waynesboro area community members the second weekend of each month and she also hikes with teachers each Thursday.

### **Lands Report**

Jim Peterson reported that the acquisition of Joe Dell's property adjacent to the Tuscarora Trail did not go through. Since the Forest Service has a right-of-way across this land, there is no need to spend club money to acquire this property. We will not lose access to the Tuscarora Trail in this area.

The property adjacent to the Silberman land has been relisted with a new realtor, but is still overpriced in the high \$300,000 range. We have a "hand shake" deal with the current property owner regarding access to both the Silberman bridge and the owner's access to the rear of his property.

Jim also noted that we are re-negotiating the agreement with the Reineman tract, which PATC let expire. Jim spoke with the person who manages the Reineman property, and the Trust is willing to negotiate a new agreement. They may want some restrictions on the building envelope surrounding the Charlie Irvin shelter, which they should not be doing. Further discussion on the Charlie Irvin shelter related to the possible use of rain barrels, construction of a fire pit, blazing and marking boundaries, and felling some trees of concern near the shelter.

### **Publicity Report**

Bob Creter was not present to give this report.

### **District Manager Reports**

**Maryland** – Rick Canter stated that most AT issues in Maryland have been people oriented. There was a Crampton Gap shelter fire last December, which required rebuilding the shelter deck. In addition, Maryland had two serious incidents with graffiti on the trail.

**Pennsylvania** – Pete Brown noted that trail work and especially the major construction projects (Little Cove cabin, Silberman bridge, Charlie Irvin shelter) were the focus of this past year. The

AT assessment of our trail section did not occur in 2014. The AT Regional Planning Committee is looking at doing a comprehensive assessment of structures along the trail (e.g., waterbars, checkdams) to help ensure the AT receives proper funding. We will hear more about this in the coming months.

Pete stated that 8 sections on the TT do not have overseers at this point and several difficult sections need co-overseers. This coming year, the bridge over Aughwick Creek will be replaced. Birch Run shelter will get a new privy in 2015, which must be ADA compliant even though the trail itself is not handicapped accessible.

Pete congratulated North Chapter members on nearly 2,150 AT trail work hours and more than 750 travel hours in 2014, for a total of nearly 3,000 hours for the AT. It took 463 work trips to accomplish these activities during the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2014. The North Chapter logged more than 6,700 hours for all work trips. We maintain 39 miles of the AT in Pennsylvania and nearly 170 total miles (AT, TT, and side trails). PATC maintains about 1,200 trail miles, of which the North Chapter has a significant and difficult portion.

The AT Biennial Conference will be held in Winchester, VA in July 2015. The Biennial Committee is looking for many volunteers for various activities such as registration, hikes, etc. Online registration for the conference will begin this spring.

#### **Upcoming Elections**

Bob reminded members that elections for North Chapter officers will be held in November 2015. Bob will not be running for President, so another member will need to step up for this position.

#### **Spring 2015 Meeting**

The next North Chapter meeting will be held at Gypsy Spring on May 2, following the AT work trip.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

*Mary Clark*  
*North Chapter Secretary*