

PATC NORTH CHAPTER MINUTES

May 6, 2017

Gypsy Spring Cabin

Participants:

North Chapter Officers

Jim Peterson (President), David Trone (Treasurer), Mary Clark (Secretary)

North Chapter Committee Chairs

Pete Brown (PA Co-District Manager), Dewey Clark (PA Co-District Manager),
Chris Firme (Hikes), Steve Koeppen (Membership), Bob Wise (Publicity)

PATC Members

Esther Aulhouse, Sam Aulhouse, George Finney, Bernie Harris, Leo Hebert, Michael Leahy,
Peter Muschamp, Grant Olson, Andy Wolfe

President's Remarks: Jim Peterson, PATC North Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Jim reported on key vacancies at PATC including the position of President, since Don White (elected President in November 2016) resigned in April. PATC's procedure is for the VP of Operations, Rush Williamson, to serve as Acting President. The Executive Committee will now select a new President in accordance with PATC's Constitution. Jim also mentioned several PATC staff vacancies.

The North Chapter submitted a budget that was a slight increase over previous years, and Council has accepted the budget. Jim explained that PATC is now stricter with cost overruns, so North Chapter members responsible for budget items should stay within budget.

Approval of Minutes: The November 5, 2016 North Chapter meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer David Trone reported that the North Chapter received another anonymous donation of \$100. We have been receiving these anonymous donations for a number of years. Recent expenses included two North Chapter meals, which were reimbursed by PATC. We also purchased flowers for Kathy Seiler following her knee replacement surgery in November. The current North Chapter account balance is \$1,965.27.

OLD BUSINESS

Pennsylvania Trails Report: Pete Brown said that the June AT worktrip will involve working with George Mason University engineering students to replace a bridge at Antietam Shelter. The students designed the bridge and submitted detailed drawings, which were approved by ATC. George Mason University is paying for the design work, materials, and labor. Keystone Trails Association will be working on the Tuscarora Trail in September. We are waiting to hear from AmeriCorps, which cancelled last year's TT trip due to flood and fire assignments around the U.S.

Dewey Clark described a recent worktrip on the Blue Trail, which resulted in a jeep trail being cleared to within a mile of the top of State Game Land 124 near Little Cove. We will meet with Jonathan Zuck, the Game Land Manager, to decide the best approach to the top. This jeep trail will allow easier access to the TT in this area. There is an anonymous donor who will pay for sawyer training for TT overseers, to be taught by Peter Jensen at Little Cove. Let Dewey know if

you would like to take this training. Dewey and Mary are preparing the paperwork to relocate Antietam Shelter to Cowans Gap State Park. The paperwork will be sent to the Pennsylvania Historic Commission this summer.

Maryland Trails Report: No report -- Rick Canter was absent

Membership Report: Steve Koeppen said he and Pete Brown keep the North Chapter mailing list. Currently we have 214 people on the worktrip mailing list plus two new people. Additional people included on the list are organizational contacts.

Lands Report: Jim Peterson said the Easterday tract owned jointly by ATC and the Club is in the process of being transferred to MD DNR. The tract abuts the AT corridor north of Route 40. There is a potential land purchase associated with the proposed Super Trail Center (see later discussion).

Publicity Report: Bob Wise reported on plans for the June 4th thru-hiker picnic at Pen Mar Park. Bob has posted signs in Harpers Ferry, a notice for southbounders, and information on the internet. Let Bob know if you can help with the picnic and what food you plan to bring.

Hikes Report: Chris Firme talked about the Four-State Challenge done by the Roads Scholar group. Chris also reported on this year's Ridge Runners, who work from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

NEW BUSINESS

PATC Supervisor of Trails, Jim Tomlin, has proposed a "Super Trail Center" in the Cumberland Valley Newburg/Newtown area in Pennsylvania. The trail center would have access to a major highway, a kitchen and bunk house, and a facility for pack animals. The center would be available for local community groups, but would not be open for PATC member rental. The trail center would cost about \$500,000 plus ongoing maintenance costs, some of which could be offset by renters. PATC would seek funding for the trail center from foundations and corporate sponsors. Jim Tomlin would like 3-4 super trail centers throughout PATC territory. North Chapter members discussed the pros and cons of a Super Trail Center in PA.

Jim Peterson suggested Silberman Trail Center could be taken out of the rental system one weekend a month for trail workers. It could be rented by others if not reserved for trail work 10 days in advance of the designated weekend. We should exclude trail centers, such as Silberman, from the advance reservation option. A motion was approved for Jim to develop a proposal for PATC trail crew use of the Club's trail shelters.

Information item: Jim mentioned an effort to direct all money collected for Shenandoah National Park (SNP) cabin rentals back to the Park. PATC would have to pay for cabin repairs. Currently SNP buys materials and PATC does the repair work on SNP cabins. Money generated within the Park would have to stay within the Park and not go to PATC.

Upcoming North Chapter Events:

August Corn Roast—Saturday, August 5 at Little Cove

Fall Meeting—Saturday, December 2 at Gypsy Spring as a pot luck dinner

The North Chapter meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Mary Clark

North Chapter Secretary