

# PATC NORTH CHAPTER MINUTES

December 2, 2017

Gypsy Spring Cabin

## Participants:

### North Chapter Officers

Jim Peterson (President), Rick Canter (Vice 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)

### PATC Members

Esther Aulhouse, Sam Aulhouse, Al Black, George Finney, Bernie Harris, Leo Hebert, Kevin Kramer, Ken May,  
Blaine Mummert, Peter Muschamp, Kathy Palomo, Tom Rostek, Kathy Trone, Dee Utz

**President's Remarks:** Jim Peterson, PATC North Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm. Jim congratulated Esther Aulhouse on receiving both the PATC Honorary Life Membership and the Hawksbill Award at the Club's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in November. The North Chapter submitted a budget similar to last year, with an increase in the amount for the thru-hiker picnic. Undesignated funds were increased from \$50 to \$100. The total North Chapter budget request for 2018 is \$1,200. A vote on our budget is scheduled at the December 12<sup>th</sup> PATC Council meeting. Jim emphasized that North Chapter members responsible for budget items should stay within budget.

**Approval of Minutes:** The May 6, 2017 North Chapter minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer David Trone reported on recent expenses including the thru-hiker picnic and corn roast, which were reimbursed by PATC. North Chapter members donated \$1,220 for memorial bricks for Charlie Irvin and Elizabeth Johnston, which will be placed at the ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry. The North Chapter recently paid annual membership dues to KTA and the Central PA Conservancy, resulting in an account balance of \$1,844.75.

**Pennsylvania Trails Report:** Pete Brown noted several recent activities including the replacement bridge near Antietam Shelter, which was designed and installed by George Mason University engineering students, with PATC help. We are in the process of clearing a jeep trail close to the top of State Game Land 124 for better access to the Blue Trail. The Keystone Trails Association worked for a week on the Tuscarora Trail (TT) in September. An AmeriCorps team was supposed to help on the TT this year, but they were diverted to hurricane damaged areas. PATC has re-applied for AmeriCorps for spring 2018. Pete also reported on new volunteer service agreements and sawyer certification procedures. This fall there was a controlled burn in the Dead Woman Hollow area, to help with natural habitat restoration.

Dewey Clark thanked everyone who signed up to help with AmeriCorps next year. John Hedrick was very impressed with the North Chapter sign-up. Dewey also mentioned the recent two-day training on rigging. For now, John Hedrick said Patrick Wilson or Dan Dueueke must be present during any highline work. Dewey thanked Curt Finney for taking care of the Hermitage privy problem. We're planning to hold sawyer training at Little Cove in 2018, taught by Peter Jensen with Dan Dueueke assisting. We can enroll 12 people in the course. Dewey outlined the certification process for TT and AT sawyers who complete and pass the course. According to John Hedrick, sawyer certification is required for cutting on the AT and TT, beginning in January 2018. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is also required, which will be covered by PATC, as well as first aid training. Pete and Dewey are personally liable if they allow anyone to saw out of compliance. Final paperwork for relocating

Antietam Shelter has been submitted, with the work likely beginning in spring. Dewey and Rush Williamson will meet with Boy Scout executives in Baltimore, to follow-up on a problem Curt Finney reported with a Baltimore-based Scout troop at Tumbling Run Shelter.

**Maryland Trails Report:** Rick Canter reported on a 12-acre fire in November near Lamb's Knoll. The AT acted as a fire break. Rick said there is a very energetic back country fire department that came in with their four-wheelers to fight the fire. A portion of the trail was damaged by their vehicles, which will require about 100 hours of repair work on the trail. The Maryland trail crew was scheduled to begin that work this weekend. At High Rock the graffiti and trash dumping are problems, which trail crews are working to resolve.

**Membership Report:** There are currently 234 people on the North Chapter worktrip mailing list, according to Steve Koeppen.

**Lands Report:** Jim Peterson said that PATC is currently not doing any land acquisition, nor is there any land acquisition occurring in the North Chapter. Jim noted the sale of Joe Dell's property where the TT is included in the right-of-way that the DNR holds. The uncertain location of the right-of-way may pose an issue in the future. Another land sale occurred next to our Silberman property. Jim described an issue related to access to that property from Aughwick Road.

**Publicity Report:** Bob Wise was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Thru-Hiker Picnic:** Jim mentioned that Bob Wise has reserved the Pen Mar pavilion for June 17, 2018 for the picnic.

**Financial Reporting to PATC:** Jim explained that PATC Headquarters was asking for electronic access to our bank account. The new PATC staffer was not aware that the North Chapter submits a detailed budget to headquarters and that Dave Trone submits vouchers for expense reimbursement. We agreed that several times a year, Dave will forward a copy of our bank statement to PATC. Headquarters agreed with this process and will not need access to our bank account.

**Silberman Trail Center Availability:** At the North Chapter spring meeting, members authorized Jim to move ahead with guidelines for Silberman worktrip bookings. Jim proposed to headquarters that Silberman be held out of the rental system one weekend a month (the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend) for worktrips. At issue is the timing for returning the cabin to the rental system if no worktrip is needed. PATC needs to advertise Silberman availability and get the key to the renters within a reasonable time frame. Jim reported that there were no objections to the overall proposal, but there is a logistic problem and the issue is still under discussion.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Documenting Land Agreements:** Dewey had asked Chris Firme to research the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania and identify all of the property owners. Chris said he did this in the early 2000's but the work was lost. This time the task was easier because the information is all online. Chris now has copies of all private parcels the Tuscarora Trail crosses. He made notebooks with this information and gave one to Pete Brown and several PATC officers at headquarters. The goal is to geo-reference the trail (based on GPS Rangers' data) onto the tax maps so we are sure where the trail is when we contact the property owners for agreements. Chris was also asked to work on the Memorandum of Understanding with Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary. This work is still in process. Chris explained that about 50% of the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania and the side trails are on private lands.

**North Chapter Constitution and By-Laws:** Jim recommended that a group of North Chapter members review the current Constitution and By-Laws. Some information may be outdated and the By-Laws should be more readily updated than the Constitution. Jim agreed to chair a group of the officers and several other members to examine these two documents. Steve Koeppen, Chris Firme, and Ken May agreed to serve on this group with the North Chapter officers.

**Upcoming Events:**

2018 Spring Meeting--May 5 at Gypsy Spring

Tri-Hiker Picnic--Sunday, June 17 starting at 10 am

**North Chapter Elections**

Jim explained that the North Chapter Constitution and By-Laws provide two ways to nominate an individual to run for office. One way is for the Nominating Committee to present a slate, however we do not currently have a Nominating Committee. The other way is to sign a written petition in advance of the meeting.

As a result, Jim asked Tom Rostek to check with current officers to see if they were still interested. Tom said that the current officers were willing to serve and that he received one additional nomination of Dee Utz for president. Jim said that in view of the fact that someone else has volunteered to serve as president, he would withdraw his name from the slate.

Regarding the position of Special Activities and Nominations Chair, Dewey Clark suggested that Special Activities be assigned to the Publicity Chair. We should look at this change during the By-Laws review. However, we should elect someone to the Special Activities/Nominations position now, so we don't miss out on having the slot filled. Tom Rostek volunteered to be added to the current slate in the role of Chair for Special Activities and Nominations.

**The slate of candidates for 2018-2019 officers is as follows:**

President: Dee Utz

Vice President: Rick Canter

Treasurer: David Trone

Secretary: Mary Clark

Membership: Steve Koeppen

Publicity: Bob Wise

Hikes: Chris Firme

Special Activities and Nominations: Tom Rostek

Jim Peterson called for a vote on the slate of candidates. All 22 North Chapter members in attendance voted in favor of the slate presented. No one abstained or opposed. The slate carried.

The December 2, 2017 North Chapter meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

*Mary Clark*

*North Chapter Secretary*