

## **New York – New Jersey Trails Council Meeting Thursday October 4, 2007**

The Council was called to order at 6:30PM

### Attending were

Jill Arbuckle, Bob Boysen, Jim Canfield, Chris Connolly, Jane Daniels, Walt Daniels, Monica Day, Jack Driller, Ed Goodell, Peter Heckler, Mary Ellen Kazar, Mark Liss, Ron Luna, John Mack, Mike Manes, Bob Marshall, John Moran, G. Neffinger, Trudy Schneider, Ollie Simposn, Ike Siskind, Malcolm Spector, Eddie Walsh, Larry Wheelock

### Introductions

Michael Manes, AMC, Delaware Valley Chapter

### Announcements

#### **Indian Rock Trail Now Open-** John Moran

Wanaque Borough, Passaic County, NJ. This trail provides additional new access and supplements two parking areas on Skyline Drive in Oakland, where most area hikes now originate.

This existing but newly adopted and blazed, trail is 0.9 miles in length, has access to Ramapo lake and joins to the Cannonball Trail. Access by both car and mass transit is possible. There are over 100 parking spaces at the trailhead and a bus stop is 1.5 miles away. The Indian Rock Trail can be combined with the 2.1 mile Wanaque Ridge Trail to make a 3 mile loop, or with the Cannonball and MacEvoy Trails to make a 5 mile lollypop loop.

#### **Reopened Shawangunk Ridge Trail at Gobbler's Knob-**Larry Wheelock

This section along Otisville Rd formerly closed by a private land owner and now owned by the State will be reopened as soon as possible.

#### **Last Meeting for Peter Heckler** as Chair; New Chair, Jane Daniels

Thanks to Peter for his leadership.

**East of Hudson brochures-** being reprinted. Discussion on the importance of tapping into the skills and talents of the volunteers help with the reprinting.

### Approval of minutes

Move to accept August 2, 2007 minutes, seconded, approved unanimously

### Additions to the agenda

None

### Committee reports

#### **Conservation & Advocacy-** Brenda Holzinger

##### **Advocacy**

New Jersey: Garden State Preservation Trust Fund,

ATV's file reports so a data base can be established to show damage to Legislatures; form is on the web, email forms to Brenda, immediately call Park Police then let the TC know

NJ State Trails Plan

New York: Long Path, Pochuck Mountain, NY Open Space financing, Ramapo Highlands Coalition

##### **Conservation**

New York: SRT, La Farge property-East side of 209, Summitville, NY. 150 acres, volunteer clean up scheduled for November 11, 2007

Greater Sterling Forest, Long Path North

New Jersey: Highlands Trail

##### **Trail Support/ Agreements**

Iron Trail, Highlands Trail, Warren Trail. AT, Long Path North

### Trail approvals

#### 1. **Stony Brook Trail extension-**Stokes State Forest-Bob Boysen

From parking lot, along brook, ending at Blue Mountain Trail. Old woods roads that have been cleared.

Unanimously approved.

2. **AT relocation at Wayawanda State Park**-Larry Wheelock

Approved by the Park and ATC. The goal is to eliminate mountain bike and equestrian traffic on the AT.  
Unanimously approved

3. **Iron Belt Trail**- Malcolm Spector

25 miles connects AT with M. Dickerson SP.; 10-12 miles is new trails. Less than ¼ mile road walking; some side hilling issues. There is a 6 miles stretch that is isolated, dense, and heavy with brush, tree blow downs, but no major bridge building

Side bar, why is it called Iron Belt? Appropriately named because some of the earliest mining in the state was in this area. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, rails were used to move ore.

It will take 2 winters to build the trail.

Malcolm has graciously volunteered to be the trail supervisor.

Unanimously approved

4. **Relocation of a 1777 1779 trails section**-Larry Wheelock for Ike Siskind

Unanimously approved

New Business

1. **Trail Standards**-forming a committee?-Larry Wheelock

Standards to be part of the Trails Management Guide

It was proposed that 5 people serve on the committee, possibly one from each region

The following people were recommended to serve: Denise Vitale, Ollie Simpson, Jack Driller., Sona Mason, Jim Canfield

Committee to consider:

How to measure a trail, for use by the general public

Measuring slopes/grades

Design standards

Construction standards

Maintenance standards

2. **Spring Workshops**- scheduling- Larry Wheelock

Where to hold – Jane Daniels indicated that it is East Hudson's turn to do the Spring workshop. She agreed to find volunteer coordinator.

Current workshop report:

Sam's Point - Maintenance 101, 12 registrants

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation - Basic water control, 8 registrants

Chain saw safety certification, 9 positions currently open; Crewmember will get priority once all the AT sawyers have had the opportunity to register who need to.

Old Business

1. **Trail Structure Guide**-Modules are being worked on:

Register Boxes & ADA Picnic tables

3. Ed Goodell spoke about the plan to develop a trail building business called **Greenways Unlimited**.

2. **Strategic Planning and Plan and Budget update**

Ed reviewed old vs. new structure of TC Organizational Chart

Tie program to trail activity

Field Coordinators: East of Hudson, West of Hudson, Bear Mountain, and New Jersey

Coordinators are generalists backed by the specialists in the office

Generalists work for the volunteers and the general public, being supported by the Office staff

Currently the TC Chair is the primary contact with the agencies. How to maintain that Contact while adding the generalist so that the agencies don't by pass the Chair and go right to the generalist.

Chair will have input into the annual review of the Generalist.

There are 14 FTE's in the old chart with 15.4 FTE's in the new chart

Land Acquisitions- \$ 3.5 million, land value; contracts for 3-4 of these

1 sold for \$320,000.00

2 more to sell in 2008 for \$ 1.4 million

Ed would like input/feed back

He will report more at the 12/07 meeting

Peter Heckler adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM