

MINUTES OF A MEETING  
of the  
TRAILS COUNCIL  
of the  
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

December 6, 2007

1. Trails Council Chair Jane Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Trail Conference office in Mahwah, N.J. Present were: Pete Heckler - Chair, Larry Wheelock - Trails Director, Eddie Walsh - Trail Projects Director, Estelle Anderson, Bob Boysen, Bill Burns, Carol Burns, Jim Canfield, Daniel D. Chazin, Ellen Cronan, Jane Daniels, Walt Daniels, Jack Driller, Donna Fichter, Jakob Franke, Jim Gebhard, Josie Gray, Gary Haugland, Bob Jonas, Peter Kohlberger, Ron Luna, John Mack, Bob Marshall, John Moran, Glenn Oleksak, Sandy Parr, Trudy Schneider, Andrew Steevers.

2. Announcements. The following announcements were made:

a. Clean-Up of the LaFarge Property. Larry Wheelock announced that a second clean-up of the LaFarge property will be held this coming Saturday. He asked that anyone interested in participating in this event should contact Brenda Holzinger no later than tomorrow.

b. Realignment of New Jersey Trail Management. Larry Wheelock showed a chart which indicated the parks that are in each of the three trail maintenance regions in New Jersey, and pointed out that the Jockey Hollow trails are now in the Central Jersey region.

c. Trail Workshops. Gary Haugland announced that a series of trail workshops will be held on in April in Fahnestock State Park and also at Wonder Lake State Park, where the park manager is looking to establish a new network of hiking trails.

3. Minutes. The minutes of the Trails Council meeting of October 4, 2007 were approved as submitted.

4. Report of Publications Committee. Daniel Chazin reported that the new digital edition of the Shawangunk Trails map set is almost ready to be sent to the printer, and he also commented that we expect to produce new digital editions of the East Hudson Trails, Sterling Forest Trails and Kittatinny Trails during the next few months.

5. Trail Relocations

a. Camp Glen Gray. John Moran outlined three relocations involving the Old Guard, Schuber, Yellow and Millstone Trails in the area of Camp Glen Gray, in each case moving the trail from an unattractive woods road to a more attractive footpath. These relocations were unanimously approved by the Trails Council.

b. Appalachian Trail in Orange County. Peter Kohlberger outlined a relocation of the A.T. near Fitzgerald Falls that would eliminate several stream crossings, and the proposed establishment of a blue-blazed high-water bypass trail that would bypass additional stream crossings. He noted that the NPS has done environmental and archeological studies and has given their approval to the relocation. He also outlined a proposed relocation of the A.T. at the crossing of Route 17A in Mt. Peter, which would result in a safer crossing by moving it a short

distance to the east, and pointed out that if an additional piece of land is acquired, it would be possible to move the trail a little further to take in a beautiful viewpoint. The Trails Council unanimously approved both of these relocations, with the understanding that either of the two possible reroutes at Mt. Peter could be used, depending on whether the additional land is acquired.

c. West Hook Mountain Trail. Jakob Franke described a new one-mile loop trail that would connect with the Long Path near the intersection of Christian Herald Road and Route 9W in Nyack. He pointed out that we hope to move the Long Path to this new trail in the future, but that this is not practical at this time because adjacent land is still in private ownership. After discussion, the Trails Council approved this new trail.

d. Extension of Highlands Trail in Hunterdon County, N.J. Glenn Oleksak outlined this proposed extension west from Van Syckles Road, which involves a roadwalk and a trail through Tower Hill Reserve and Jugtown Mountain Preserve, ending on Route 173, where parking for hikers is permitted at a restaurant. He noted that this trail extension has already been approved by the Hunterdon County Park Commission, and he pointed out that the existing trail to Charlestown Reserve (which does not have a legal outlet) will be maintained as a side trail. He also discussed several possible routes for the trail to continue west of Route 173 to Musconetcong Gorge Preserve. Larry Wheelock noted that we need trail updates for these relocations. After discussion, these proposed extensions of the Highlands Trail were approved by the Trails Council, with the understanding that there is some flexibility with regard to the route of the trail west of Route 173.

6. Side Trail Blazing. Walt Daniels noted that the convention is that side trails to the A.T. are blazed blue. He noted that we have a number of side trails that connect to the A.T. and are managed by the A.T. committees, and in some cases, there are too many of them to blaze them all blue. He proposed that all short stub trails from the A.T. to views or other features be painted in 2x6 blue blazes, but that other longer side trails be painted with 2x3 blazes, with blue used as the color if possible. Walt Daniels also commented that since A.T. boundaries are blazed in yellow, it is not advisable to use yellow as the color of a side trail to the A.T.

7. Purchase of Chainsaw by East Hudson Trails Committee. Josie Gray requested that the Trail Conference allocate \$239 for the purchase a chainsaw for the East Hudson Trails Committee, pointing out that she and another committee member are certified in the use of a chainsaw, but that they have no need for one personally. Larry Wheelock noted that, in the past, the Trails Council has not agreed to pay for the cost of chainsaws owned by individuals, but he pointed out that this request is different because the chainsaw in question would be owned by the Trail Conference and used by members of a trails committee. Ed Goodell stated that he wanted to consult with our Counsel to see if there might be any liability problems with the ownership of a chainsaw by the Trail Conference. Larry Wheelock pointed out that the A.T. has purchased chainsaws for the use of the New Jersey A.T. Committee, which are owned by the Trail Conference.

After discussion, it was agreed that chainsaws may be purchased by the Trail Conference for Trail Committees, for use by certified chain sawyers under the auspices of the Trails Committee, with a designated person responsible for the chainsaw, subject to approval by our Counsel. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously, with four abstentions.

8. Strategic Planning and Plan and Budget update. Ed Goodell reviewed the process, indicating that there are specific goals for Trails Council. Some of the goals for this year include adding fifty miles of maintained trails, completing major trail projects, making annual reports to agency partners will be completed

9. Reorganization. Ed Goodell also explained the reorganization that will be taking place. It is designed to provide more services to our trail volunteers in that there will be four field coordinators: East Hudson, West Hudson, New Jersey, and Bear Mountain. In addition, there will be specialists to support those staff members: conservation, communications, and cartographer. Advocacy will be at a more local level. He expects in January 2008, Brenda Holzinger will become the NJ Coordinator and that the East Hudson Field coordinator will be on board around March 2008.

10. Trail Structures Guide update – Andrew Steevers has assembled a Guide Book for Building Trail Structures. It is to have a modular concept and as such will be a living document. Andrew reviewed the first module which was a picnic table. He would like to have volunteers to help with designs for kiosk, bridge abutments, stiles, puncheon/bog bridges, composting privy, register boxes, gates and fencing, signs, and that there be references to other bridges.

11. Trail Council Meetings In an effort to make trails Council meetings more interesting, Jane Daniels asked for suggestions. She indicated that she wanted to start on time, keep to time limits, and end on time. Suggestions were to have some advocacy strategies and opportunities to share successes.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9 00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel D. Chazin  
with help from Jane Daniels and Mary Ellen Kazar