

Spirit of the Woods Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting, Aug 26, 2004
Chittendon Center, Wellston, MI

7:00 pm

Meeting called by Ed Chappel

He read a story called "jar in the coffee" - things put in a jar, golf balls, pebbles, sand, coffee in the jar. Bigger sizes are important things. Put the big things in the jar first, because if you put the sand in first there is no room for the big things (family, friends, priorities).

Trail Adopters Manual

Review of what the Trail Coordinator will be. Both Ed's have not been able to do as much as they wished.

Plan the work and coordinate the work days

Bring the plan to Exec Com and then

Coordinate with the FS

Hike each section with volunteers to see what should be done- probably an impossibility

Continuity of marking- still a lot of diamonds out there

Chapter tools- list is made

Most of our sections are 3-4 miles, and hard to break up smaller with access points

Trail Adopters

Manual says TC appoints these, but ok if "club" does this- be sure to find a spot they can handle

Still need more volunteers, but Joan pointed out that all Chapters have similar problems

The Boy Scout Troop that we have not been able to identify is from Saginaw

Adopters need to report to the TC

Need to find the best way to communicate with people

Trail Work

Questions concerning the width of the trail. Rich does not want to lose the "semi-primitive flavor" of the trail- north of Red Bridge and Bowman Lake are Semi-Primitive designations

Ed feels that on side hills it needs to be wider for passing other hikers

Ed has noted places where the trail has moved 3 feet from where original (20 years ago) water bars were placed. So he would like all water bars to be at least 4 feet wide. People tended to bypass them. If there was a tree or something to anchor one they lasted better.

Rich would like to clarify our "policy" on waterbars. Are we just replacing original ones? They need constant maintenance.

Ed thinks that decisions about outslope and width need to be made in the field as conditions dictate

Most of our treadway is an average of 24" wide.

Brian Belt says pull from inside to out to cut the bench. Brian will be at Aug 28 work day to help design splash boards along the waterbars and help make decisions as to where they will go

Rich- spent all winter trying to learn as much as he could about the trail. Eager to get out this spring. Wanted to make observations and suggest solutions. He had a "sample" section of trail that he has worked on and watched. He had removed wide solid berm sections and put them on the inside to keep the trail from ending up 6 feet wide.

Brian wants us to leave the wide berms alone and pull more earth down from the slope to fill the depression in- he's quite adamant about this- even bring in soil from elsewhere if needed

Low priority item to fill in narrow ditched trail

Decision making about trail work

Eds will plan the work and bring the plan to the Exec Com

We all want to have the best section of trail along the NCT

Rich hopes to see us restoring areas that are abused to their original condition

Brian feels that a lot of our trail is in better shape than we think it is
There was a discussion of issues at specific locations
Rich tried to get a sense of the maximum time needed to grade and maintain trail... it needs to be delicate work
Therefore need to watch heavy-handed volunteers more carefully
Need to communicate better with each other and the FS on decisions about trail construction standards
There is a need for more Exec. Com. Meetings in the summer- maybe best to schedule one that can be cancelled if not needed.
Chapter President is supposed to write the CCS, or at least sign it-probably best if Pres and TC work together on it.
The Forest Service has the final authority for what will be put in

The deck off the boardwalk is in progress, will be 8 x 16 feet with benches

Corduroy- FS prefers to use turnpike with underdrain instead, like was done in Sterling Marsh. We don't know just what the October work day will be: bridges or corduroy

Letter to the Forest Service about bike use. Rich has not completed the letter. HQ wants the letter to be complimentary to theirs. He just sort of let it go.

Nominees for offices- Pres- Rich
VP- Joan,
Treasurer- Mary will call Moe to ask if she will accept nomination
Secretary- Joan

Next meeting Sept 9- elections

Adjourned 9:15 pm

Still need volunteers for Striders Run

Rich has seen this year: 225 backpackers, 30 hikers, 50 bikes