

Meeting Minutes
Tittabawassee Chapter - North Country Trail Association
March 2, 2006

Location: Elvira's Restaurant, Sanford

Attending: Joe & Willi Bevirt, Doug Soule, Jerry Allen, Vern & Cora Killinger, Martha Kinsman, Stella Thelen, Lyle Bialk, Marianne Ballard, Bob Shrems, Charles Robinson, Peg Jones & Andy Zeek

Since Gary Johnson (President) is in Florida, Andy Zeek (Vice President) called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The **Minutes** were reviewed and accepted. Due to the weather, our planned speaker was unable to attend.

Stella gave the **Treasurer's Report**. We have \$1864.07 in our account. During the evening, one NCTA patch was sold for \$3.00 and Stella sent a check to the Headquarters for that amount.

Visit with DNR: Jerry Allen reported on a meeting with DNR staff, especially Robin Pearson. She asked for information on what we do and also asked for maps. Jerry will contact the National Office and ask them to provide her with maps.


We will continue puncheon replacement. The DNR will pay some fees for us. The issue we had earlier about mowing has been resolved in our favor. The DNR will put in culverts in Warner Creek Pathway and also new gates where needed. Jerry asked for clearer signs in some areas. Where beavers have been a problem, trappers were to have removed some of them. It is not known how successful that was. Jerry also explained our Ridge Runner program to Robin. Robin provided some forms to Jerry for documenting planned trail work.

Joe Bevirt also reported on his meetings with Robin Pearson in the past.


Jerry also noted that if anyone sees a violation of some kind while hiking the trail, the best number to call is the RAP (Report All Poachers) line: **800/292-7800**. Calls to this line must be answered, by law.

Dan Jones is the DNR Fire Officer for Pinney Bridge Campground. He can also be called with questions.

There are at least five Geo-caches in the Jordan River Valley. They can't be put in without a permit. If anyone finds one, or sees evidence of one, please let Dan Jones know. Those who go hunting for these often disturb a significant amount of vegetation.

Trail Projects: Cora Killinger reported on trail projects. We need to update signage on trails, especially where no signs exist at road crossings. She has forms like the ones the Western Michigan Chapter – maintenance forms and signage needed forms. The forms will be placed on the web site so they are easier to use. 

Road Crossing Signs: Bob Schrems showed us an example of the sign for route 131. Bob also talked about the Quiet Waters Symposium that he will be attend along with Gary Johnson and Bob's son Paul. This is scheduled for March 4th.

We discussed our upcoming events: There will be a meeting at **10:00 a.m. on May 6th**, somewhere in Gaylord. After the meeting, we will also do trail work. 

Backpacking Day at Jay's in Clare will be held from **9 – 5 on May 20th**. Helpers are needed for that event. Please contact Bob Schrems.

National Trail Day is **June 3rd**. We will have a table at Jay's in Gaylord.

June 24-25, we will have a working/camping weekend at a location to be determined.

The Ridge Runner program will run from **Memorial Day to Labor Day**. Contact Peg Jones to select a weekend.

The National Conference will be held **August 10-13** in Clarion, Pennsylvania.

Please save these dates and check our web site for more details as they become available.

Roving Trail Crew: Lyle Bialk discussed an event to be held at Seven Ponds Nature Center near Metamora, Michigan. He also talked about pulling together a group of people to be part of a Roving Trail Crew. The Buckeye Trail in Ohio has some major work to do from March 31 – April 5th. They have 23 miles of trail on roadways that are being moved to an abandoned towpath. Food will be provided, but Lyle needs to know how many are available to help. Please contact him for info.

Old Business: There was no other old business.

New business: Vern Killinger reported that our trailer needs two new tires, and at least two new lights. The mower also needs a clutch cable and a new blade. The total cost should be less than \$300.00. Stella Thelen moved and Jerry Allen seconded a motion to permit Vern to spend up to \$300 for these items. It was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella Thelen, Secretary.