

Tittabawassee Chapter
Of North Country Trail Association
September 16, 2006 Minutes

Meeting called to order by Gary at 10:10 a.m. at Lake Arrowhead

Present: Vern & Cora Killinger, Debra Seelye, Andy Zeek, Stan & Kay Kujawa, Dennis Mashue, Chad Brick, Connie Pausits-Allen, Gary Johnson

Gary read treasury report and membership report from Stella's email.

Gary showed a map of the entire TBW trail on it.

Vern is taking the tool trailer home today. Vern asked about getting a couple of medium grade weed eaters Gary ask him to get the cost and he would email the Board for approval.

Kay Kajawa talked about fun hikes by the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Chapter. Our members are welcome to join them.

Peg Jones has taken on additional responsibilities at work. As result, she will no longer be able to coordinate the Ridge Runner program. Connie agreed to chair this project. Peg mentioned in her email, there were several week-ends that no volunteers were available. Probably the high cost of gas was keeping people from making the trip to Jordan River Valley.

Cora's trail report is below:

Report of Things Done Since Last Meeting

Maintainer Reports

Collected them and compiled a to-do list from their suggestions

Mailed them to land owner/managers

Mailed copy of Tom Gilberts "Cooperating Land Owner's VIP's in More Ways Than One" article to the private land owners along with their copy of the Maintainer Reports.

Heard from College--asked them to let us know when they mowed the field by McDougal so Jerry didn't have to go all the way up there only to find it done. They said they'd mow all the time and for us to consider it done. I mailed them a complimentary copy of the "North Star" magazine.

Heard from Cary Adgate--asked him if the for sale sign on the corner was his property (the trail goes through there) he said no. He is still interested in the trail and in putting up a parking lot with a barricade to prevent anything except foot traffic and signing it that way. Lyle plans to follow up on this excellent opportunity to limit access to the trail. Also mailed him a copy of "North Star".

Did not hear from City of Petoskey--asked them to please address the problem of marking the trail where markings were destroyed by construction in the city. I believe we will have to get on their city council agenda and then make a trip up there and attend a city council meeting. Also while we are there we should address our trail on City of Petoskey property out in the woods by Brubaker, Krause and King Rds. Seven years ago when our chapter was first formed and I first hiked that trail, it was not used by orv's. Now orv damage is showing up and destroying our trail. The City of Petoskey has the right as a private landowner to prohibit motorized vehicles or anything else they want to prohibit. The law of Michigan is on their side, because the orv's are only supposed to ride on a legitimate orv trail. I believe the City needs to be informed of the damage that is going on and what they can do about it. We certainly can help by installing signage to that effect.

The private land owners of the previously owned Stinner property were pleased to be recognized as being a help to the NCT. I sent them a copy of the "North Star" too.

News

8 trees chainsawed off trail between Deadman's Hill and where path goes uphill for return trip back to Deadman's Hill

Tree chainsawed off trail between Cascade and Landslide

Sticker signage put up in Jordan Valley by Peg Myers

Carsonites and road names put up by Gary Johnson

Tim Calloway offered to help with blazes and road names in northern section

Report of no more competitive horse races on NCT by King and Krause Rds.

Puncheon at 3 culverts on Jordan River Rd. was stolen

Trail mowed east of Pinney Bridge Campgrnd by Doug Bedell

DNR asked for GPS and pictures of structures our TBW had built in the valley--that is completed, just need to print out the pictures and label them with the coordinates

Joan and DeWayne Cox are going to ask Emmet County about rerouting the trail off of Hathaway and Kipp Rd and onto county property.

Too many blazes on one of our sections---please read the article on blazing on our web page for adopters if you've never done it before. Even if you have, you can always pick up new ideas. A couple weeks ago I tried using a tray like the article suggests and it worked so well I didn't get paint all over myself and had room for all the things needed for blazing. Bill Menke demonstrated the use of a hatchet for cleaning and smoothing the tree before blazing--it works very well.

June 24-25 at our work/camp meeting, Clare Cain joined us. She is National Director of Trail Management and she wanted to try to understand what concerns we had as a chapter regarding DNR and our care of the trail. Out of the discussion came one issue that our chapter has had a complete impass on--that of taking the trail off of 2-track roads and rerouting them into the woods. We chose 4 reroutes and she made phone calls and had a meeting with the DNR about how to accomplish this important objective of the NCT. We will work on this in the following months. Hopefully we'll have some reroutes to work on next summer.

June 10 when Vern and I were camping at Bodi Lake in the U.P. we joined the HSS chapter for a hike at Taqua Falls and met Kay and Stan and their president Roger Morrison. Then August I had the privilege of joining the Rovers group of trail workers

when they went to HSS section and worked on clearing the trail. We worked on the very section that Connie and I hiked about 10 years ago and wrote an article for the North Star called "Bushwacking to Bodi". After that article, Tom Learmont took a group and reblazed the trail. I don't think anyone has blazed it since. It was very satisfying to conquer it with our DR brusher, chainsaws and Nelson Blue Boundry paint.

Roger has a bee colony and gave us each a jar of honey. He has a unique view of bees and trail workers. A bee makes about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey. He harvests about 100 lbs or more per hive. It takes a lot of bees to make that much honey. A bee (or a trail worker) could say that her contribution cannot make a difference; however, look at the outcome when all worker bees put in their 1/12 teaspoon of honey.

Report compiled by Cora Killinger, Trail Coordinator, TBW of NCT. September 16th, 2006

Next meeting to be November 2, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Oak Inn in Sanford. Original owners and menu are back.

January meeting will be January 13th in Houghton Lake so our members from "Up North" can attend. Location to be determined. This is on a Saturday evening so a winter activity may be planned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Most people left to do their "fall walk-thru".

Respectfully submitted,

Gary