

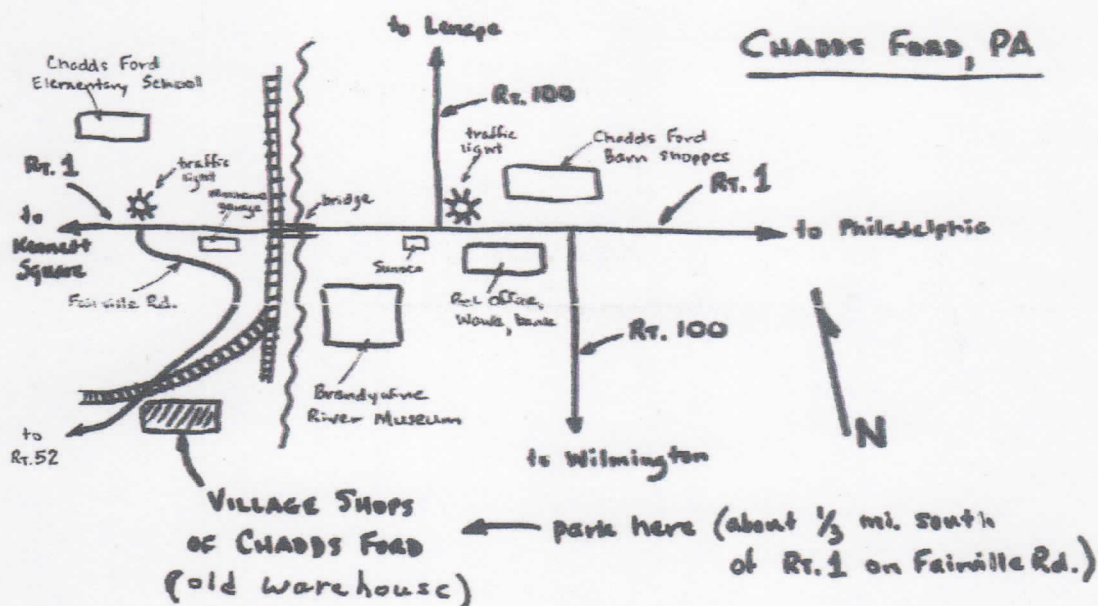
MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



MARCH 3, 1991 MEMBER'S MEETING
and
NEWS NOTES

JUNE 2, 1991 at 9:30 A.M.

WORK HIKE AND OUR NEXT MEETING



A beautiful relocation of a section of Mason-Dixon Trail has been made possible by landowner Mr. Haskell for our use (except during deer hunting season). That portion of our Trail that is just South of the intersection of the Brandywine and Mason-Dixon Trail would be moved to the ridges above the Brandywine River and off the road. The suggested relocation is really delightful!

Meet at 9:30 A.M. at the Village Shops of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania on Sunday, June 2, 1991 (see map above). Note: the Village Shops are on the South West side of the Brandywine River; the Brandywine River Museum is on the southeast.

Bring clippers, loppers, bow saws, trail blaze paint and equipment. Don't forget Trail lunch and water. There will be a Mason-Dixon Trail System Member's Meeting at lunch time on the Trail. After our work is finished, Kay Way has invited the group for a swim at her home (which is about five miles away in Kennett Square).

ADDITIONAL WORK HIKESMASON-DIXON
TRAIL SYSTEM

Eagle Scout John A. McGreevy, III and his crew will be working on the Mason-Dixon Trail south from the Gageing Station on March 23, April 13, May 4, and June 1 (each date has a scheduled rain date one week later). Lunch will be provided for this crew.

Meeting time is 8:00 A. M. at the Gageing Station on Paper Mill Road on the Susquehanna. The Scouts will be relocating a portion of the Trail, digging steps, making log cribs and building a log bridge. Trail coordinator Richard Tobias is Mason-Dixon contact.

April 21, 1991 The WTC has scheduled a Susquehanna Wild-flower Hike plus Litter Clean -Up on two miles of the Mason-Dixon Trail. Leader is Yvonne Blades (). WTC Members meet at Delaware Trust in Hockessin at 10:00 A.M. Contact Yvonne for further information.

Red Clay Valley Clean Up April 20, 1991 . Meet at 8:00 A.M. at one of the following places: Ashland Nature Center, Wilmington and Western Railroad, Greenback Station, or NVF, Kennett Square, Mulberry Street. Call Delaware Nature Society () or Red Clay Valley Association () for further information.

NOTE***** Published work dates July 7 and August 4, 1991 have had to be cancelled. PLEASE REMOVE FROM YOUR CALENDER.

MARCH 3, 1991 MEMBER'S MEETING MINUTES

Kay Way, President, started our meeting at 2:00 P.M. at Muddy Run Recreation Center, Muddy Run Park, Pennsylvania. Present were: Louise Sis, Rick Maerker, Marion and Jack Schultz, Dick Tobias, Clair Piersol, Jane Funk, Turner Darden, Jim Hooper, Ron Gray, Dennis Schmuck, Duane Hyson, John McGreevy, Jennifer Carranza, Vivian and Warren Davies, Yvonne Blades, Diane Summerhill, Pat Metallo and friend, Eileen Robinson, Kay Way and Marie & John Pittenger.

Rails & Trails Kay Way noted the National Conference on Rails to Trails 6/19 to 22 would be at Huntsville Inn, Baltimore Maryland. Several M.D.T.S. members indicated they might attend this meeting. A request was made by M.D.T.S. members, that if these members did attend this conference, a report be given to M.D.T.S.; it would be appreciated.

National Trail
System; Trail
Protection Request made to contact member Bob Bennett as to what information and assistance he could give to the group that would be helpful in exploring the subject of Trail Protection. (letter sent 3/23/91 with the above request).

Treasurer's
Report:
John Pittenger

John shared correspondence directed to us as a result of his members canvas. The correspondence covered many aspects of Trail improvements, members assignments in Desert Storm, health of members, new additions to our rolls of life members, offers to maintain sections of the Trail, etc..

Appreciation was expressed and minuted for the increased contribution of Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (they have also made available a brochure "The Mason-Dixon Trail at the Holtwood Project")

Within the past year, Safe Harbor Water Power Corporation made a generous donation to M.D.T.S. for maintenance of our trail.

Patricia and Robert Merrill of Salado, Texas made a generous gift to M.D.T.S.. Their accompanying letter made several helpful suggestions towards a goal of Trail Protection.

Turner Darden has been added to our rolls as a life member.

Long time member Wilma Flaig is very ill. Those of you who know Wilma may wish to contact her at: [REDACTED]

John noted in his report that:

- a. Average membership support was \$13- in 1991
- b. Two large purchases were made by M.D.T.S. in recent years:
1990 -Patches \$330
1989 Mower needed for parts of the Trail

- c. Cash on hand 1991 \$2,375-
C.D.s (approximately) 1,200-

| | | |
|---------|---------------|----------|
| 2/28/91 | Funds Balance | \$3575-- |
| 2/28/90 | " " | 1949- |
| 2/28/89 | " " | 2157- |

Comments made
about report:

Noted by M.D.T.S. Members that:

- a. We had only about 100 Trail Guide Books and Maps left.
- b. Significant changes in the Trail are being made this year.
- c. We need to have a reserve of \$2000 minimum for the publication of new Guide Books and Maps; it was suggested that our Treasurer invest further funds in short term C.D.s so that at least \$2000 be in reserve, but available on a reasonable swift schedule.

TRAIL GUIDE
and
MAPS
COMITTEE

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM members appointed a committee to begin work on the new Guide Book and Maps: Dick Tobias, Ron Gray and Rick Maerker. This committee held their first meeting before we left the building.

Further
Comments:

Noted by members that funds above the reserve needed for news notes, equipment, trail signs, bridges over streams, and at least token donations to Conservation groups adjacent to our trail whose activities tend to protect open space and our trails, ie: Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys, Red Clay Conference, etc..

SIGNS

Jack Schultz agreed to be sign chairman, and to receive, compile, and organize:

- a. Requests for sign location
- b. Suggestions for type
- c. and suggestions for information to be placed on signs.

Rick Maerker reported that P.E. had put a sign at Lock 12, noting M.D.T.S. (erected at Thanksgiving), and this sign was quite attractive.

Louise Sis suggested additional trail signs of sheet metal or plywood as the cost per sign would be less than solid wood. (Estimated cost of solid wood signs was \$250 to 500-)

TRAIL REPORTS
Discussion
and
Major decisions

Trail Coordinator Turner Darden reported Eastern Section is all "walkable". Grays Hill consumed by a housing development, but can get through by following blazes.

Newark: Chestnut Hill and Welch Tract recently sold and being developed. There will be a Trail Problem there.

Discussion: Status of privately owned land west of 896 proposed by Bob Bennett for a possible trail. Rick Maerker reported this would take M.D.T. west into Fairhill, Maryland, but should be considered for a side loop for "recreational purposes". Future investigation?

Dick Tobias reported that at one time in years past there had been preliminary investigation by M.D.T.S. of "taking over" Conestogo Trail----and a number of trails had been envisioned. This is the reason M.D.T. SYSTEM instead of Mason-Dixon Trail.

Havre de Grace and up the river--trail has been moved and goes down rocks. Blazes are needed (since our March 3 meeting Turner Darden and Yvonne Blades have worked on this section. They report work finished).

On the East side of the Susquehanna, we need to look at the Susquehanna--Lopsidum to I-95 cross.

BRANDYWINE TRAIL
and
MASON-DIXON TRAIL
overlap

Question raised: Why did we "start our trail at Ludwig's Corner and continue south on the Brandywine Trail" until Chadds Ford, where our Mason-Dixon Trail actually did diverge?

Chester County Trail Club (Clair Piersol and assistants) did a magnificent job of maintaining the Brandywine Trail. Current claim and use of the Brandywine Trail as a part of the Mason-Dixon Trail confusing and unnecessary.

Decision:

Start the Mason-Dixon Trail at Chadds Ford where it now diverged from the Brandywine Trail.

Relocation at
Chadds Ford:

Rick Maerker reported former Wilmington Mayor Hal Haskell was interested in having the Mason-Dixon relocated through his land (except during deer hunting season). A work hike would be needed to clear briars and vines as well as blaze. We need to keep our current road trail open for Dec. and Jan.. (a number of M.D.T.S. members-Mary-Bleecker, Y. Blades, T. Darden John and Marie Pittenger, hiked the proposed relocation with Rick Maerker on April 1). It's beautiful! Result is the scheduled work hike on June 2 (see front page).

White Clay
Creek Preserve
Warren Davies

The M.D.T. relocation "off Peltier Road where it crosses Chambers Rock Road" can be pretty wet. The old trail, (now a side trail) is a direct way to get to the Preserve headquarters. Dick Tobias philosophically commented "no trail is determined by a straight line. Blue blazes on relocation, side trails (the old section) white." We mark and maintain both.

Warren reports BiState Council is working on a Trail Bike policy. Warren has some concern about use of Trails in the White Clay Creek Preserve by Trail Bikers as they can and do cause damage to sensitive areas such as slopes and wet areas. Ted Sanderson (member) has reported Trail Bikes along Muddy Creek south of the Gageing Station.

DO WE NEED TO ACT ON TRAIL BIKE PROBLEM --bikes in inappropriate places????

Southwest Trail
Dick Tobias

Scout John McGreevy and a group of Boy Scouts will be working under Dick's supervision on a trail relocation from Gageing Station south. (see work hikes)

We are now using back roads for our trail north of Muddy Creek. A possible relocation is under discussion with P.E. (they are putting a park on their property--we have been invited to look) and landowner Mr. Wiley.

Trails:NorthwestSectionRon Gray

Chain saw needed for clean up at Cuffs Run

New Bridge at Otter Creek

OTHER CONCERNS

Dick Tobias asked "what did the by-laws mandate for the election of officers." Kay Way responded that John Pittenger had just taken over as Treasurer as Pat Boyle resigned just prior to his death; while we didn't have a copy of the by-laws with us, she had been unable to get a nominating committee together recently as our working group was spread out from Wilmington, Delaware to Whiskey Springs, Penna.

Dick Tobias and Jim Hooper volunteered to look up election requirements, and serve as a nominating committee.

Desert Storm-- Dick Tobias sent 100 copies of the Appalachian Trail Guide to Troops overseas at his expense in early January. He asked for, and received, support for sending, at his discretion, another shipment in April.

Foot Bridge
across the
White Clay

Warren and Vivian Davies requested that M.D.T.S. join with other interested parties (W.T.C. , White Clay Creek Watershed Association) in proposing to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Parks that a foot bridge be built across the White Clay at Yeatman Station (site of the old covered bridge). The bridge abductment is owned by London-Britian Township.

M.D.T.S. support granted. The Davies will "get back to us" if the Bureau of Parks is interested and if M.D.T.S. can be of further help and assistance.

Evaluation of
sponsored hike
(M.D.T.S. with
Chester County
Trail Club)

Mason-Dixon Trail System 's joint hike with Chester County Trail Club became a successful Chester County hike. Rick Maerker concludes that this hike reinforced our role as trail developers and maintainers; we are not a hiking club.

Rick did "run into" M.D.T.S. Pioneer Bob Yost. Bob's health is improving, and we look forward to the "near future" when he can become actively involved with M.D.T.S. again. Bob supplied Rick with information about the proposed Brandywine--Susquehanna Trail.

Pennsylvania
Landowners Bill

Marion Schultz reported to M.D.T.S members about Penna. House Bill #453 "an act encouraging landowners to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting liability in connection therein"-- which is to reenact and amend the act of February 2, 1966.

Pennsylvania
Landowners Bill
continued

Marion Schultz urged Pennsylvania M.D.T.S. members to write their representatives in support of House Bill #453.

Mason Dixon
Trail System
entends
congratulations

Congratulations from the members of the Mason-Dixon Trail System to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company for their First Place award in the 1990 "Take Pride in Pennsylvania" program. "Take pride awards are made to organizations committed to ensuring wise use and protection of the commonwealth's natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources."

Greenway Plan
Delaware

Delaware's Greenway Plan deserves support; it is a program that will attempt to link the "wooded stream valleys of northern Delaware with the southern coastal beaches, using a ribbon of green land to connect nature, history, recreation and scenery." Call [REDACTED] for more information.

Kay Way adjourned to M.D.T.S. meeting about 4:10 P. M. As we finished our day with a fabulous covered dish supper that we knew was awaiting us, it is easy to see what an involved, decision making meeting we had!

SPECIAL THANKS-----to Jennifer Carranza, Pennsylvania Power and Light's Holtwood Land Management Naturalist, who opened up the Recreational Building Facilities for our use of a Sunday afternoon.

Red Clay
Conference IV

The Delaware Nature Society has listed the Mason-Dixon Trail System as a co-sponsor of the Red Clay Conference IV which will be held May 1, 1991 from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at the Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin, Delaware. For further information call [REDACTED]