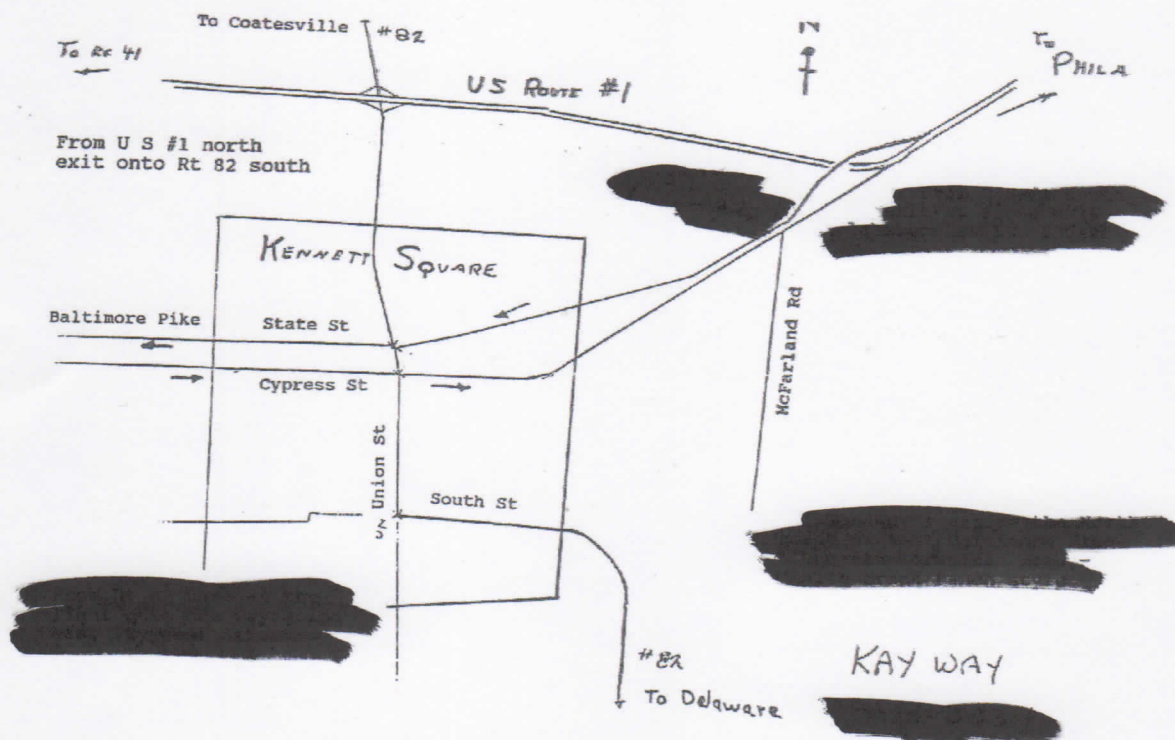




M-DTS NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING (Note change of location)

Saturday March 7, 1992 at the home of Kay Way in Kennett Square - a homemade soup lunch at noon, bring something toward dessert if you wish, followed by the meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. A short hike will end up the afternoon, if anyone would like to explore nearby fields and RR and the Way's greenhouses.



AGENDA

- Minutes of Nov.9/91 meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Trail Reports
- New M-DTS Maps/Guide
- Discussion of "hot" relocations
- Set up summer meeting & work hike
- Discussion of federal protection for M-DTS
- Legislative pressures/policies
- Any other new topics of interest

3700. *Check*

Send Tax Mkt of Johnson Rd area

1992 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE ENCLOSED

\$7.50 ordered incl Postage

6.00 for John + 4.00 for

6.00 la = 100 mm

A stamped, return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. This year, as we face the expense of publishing a new edition of the MDTs Trail Guide and Maps (estimated cost about \$4000), your annual support is especially critical.

MINUTES of NOV. 9, 1991 MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting was held in Gifford Pinchot State Park on a cold, blustery day following a pleasant two hour hike, partly on the MDT, led by Jim Trautman. Members in attendance were: Rick Maerker, Lorraine Sis, Marie & John Pettinger, Turner Darden, Kay Way, John Wilds, Marion & Jack Schultz, James Trautman, John Hooper, Ron Gray, Vivian & Warren Davies and Yvonne Blades.

Treasurer's report: John Pettinger reported the balance as of Nov. 1, 1991 was \$3495.02 of which \$1237.50 is in the checking account and \$2257.52 in certificates. At this time in 1990 the balance was \$2251.51 and in 1989, \$1385.58. During 1991 the average financial support from members was about \$13.35. John had compiled a list of those who are on the member rolls but did not contribute in 1991. As the list included life members and some other names that should not be dropped the decision was to review the list in detail again after another year.

Election of Officers: A slate of nominees, prepared by Dick Tobias and Jim Hooper, was presented and unanimously approved. The new officers are:

President	Rick Maerker
1st Vice President	Clair Piersol
2nd Vice President	Jim Hooper
Secretary	Yvonne Blades
Treasurer	Mary Bleecker
Corresponding Secretary	Marion Schultz
Trail Coordinators:	
Eastern Section	Turner Darden
Central Section	Kay Way
Western Section	Ron Gray

Trail Reports:

Western Section - Ron Gray reports a relocation on the north side of Pinchot Park to eliminate road walking. The route is blazed but needs work.

The trail between Lock 12 and Wrightsville will be checked on two upcoming scheduled hikes of the York Hiking Club.

Ron's daughter will reblaze the section he maintains.

Central Section - Kay Way will be meeting with Susan Ellenberg of Philadelphia Electric and Dave Linthicum, maintainer, regarding relocation of the MDT down near the river north of Conowingo dam. P.E. may build the trail.

Ron Gray reports problems due to logging near Hopkin's Cove. There has been talk of condominiums being built in the area.

Yvonne Blades reports of efforts to find a route to relocate the trail off roads south from Lapidum. The superintendent of Susquehanna State Park says we can use the old railway bed but about 1/4 mile south of Lapidum there is a 35 foot wide stream to cross. There are remnants of an old RR trestle but the supporting structure has collapsed into the stream.

No progress yet on the land ownership controversy on the north side of Muddy Creek.

Ron Gray reports permission has been given for a relocation between Coal Cabin and Robinson Road along the river. It is a rugged area and will require considerable scouting and trail work.

Eastern Section - Turner Darden reports the trail is generally in good shape.

More blazes needed on section along RR tracks east from Perryville.

Chester County Trail Club will maintain relocated section between Chadds Ford and intersection of Fairville & Cossart roads. Kay Way wants someone to take over maintaining the section from Fairville/Cossart intersection to White Clay Creek Preserve parking lot #1.

A relocation on the Iron Hill to Elkton section was necessary because of a new housing development.

There is a short relocation in Hockessin onto a hike/bikeway through Swift Park.

The Wilmington Trail Club wants to utilize 1.3 mi of the new section of the MDTs near Chadds Ford to move the Brandywine Trail off railroad tracks - this means the addition of white blazes. Approval was granted.

New Trail Guide: Rick Maerker has entered the information onto his computer and asked maintainers to send him any changes by the end of the year. Ron Gray hopes to have the maps done in 2 - 3 weeks. They will be topographical maps with the trail marked in a different color. One thousand maps and 500 booklets will be ordered.

Future Trail Relocations: Rick Maerker discussed a possible relocation to go from the White Clay Creek Preserve past the tri-state marker to Fair Hill Natural Resources area and then south along a possible greenway on Big Elk Creek. Warren Davies suggested that we delay pursuing this until a permanent manager is appointed at Fair Hill and the funding situation is less critical.

In Memorium: The death of Warren Raab was noted. Warren was a former newsletter editor and trail maintainer for MDTs

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Saturday March 7, 1992.

TRAIL MAINTAINERS NEEDED

Eastern Section - 1 or 2 maintainers needed for 13 mile section (mostly on roads) - Fairville Rd to White Clay Creek Preserve parking lot #1. Call Kay Way [REDACTED]

Western Section - Ron Gray requires maintainers for two sections north of Lock 12. Call [REDACTED]

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My idea of a president for our small group of concerned trail blazers/maintainers is that of one who wears the title but continues acting just as he always has within the group. Yes, I'll preside at meetings, but that's as "presidential" as I'll get. In other words, don't expect any great shakes because M-DTS has a new president. It will be business as usual, in the fine manner that Kay Way filled the office for the past several years.

First, let's extend out gratitude to our out-going officers. We are indebted to Marie and John Pittenger for picking up the pieces of the secretarial and treasury duties during Pat Boyle's illness and since his death. (And now that Marie has passed the pen to Yvonne Blades and John the purse strings to Mary Bleecker, we hope that the Pettingers will continue to help be the "eyes and ears" for developmental and political impacts on our trails on the eastern side of the Susquehanna).

Ron Gray steps down from a vice-presidency spot, but fortunately does not relinquish his coordination of trail maintenance for the western section of the M-DT. We're grateful for Ron's leadership as one of our vice-presidents over the years, and Ron continues to make his

presence felt, most recently with his tireless effort on the maps for the third edition of the guidebook and in working out the details with the publisher for producing our newest M-DT guidebook.

We welcome Jim Hooper in the vice-president role that Ron vacated. Thanks go too to Clair Piersol for his willingness to continue as a vice-president, and to Dick Tobias and Jim Hooper for serving as the nominating committee. Marian Schultz and Marie Pittenger continue to stay attuned to legislative impacts on our trail and to correspond with the political aficionados in the state capitals when necessary.

And finally, special thanks to all our trail maintainers through whose efforts the Mason-Dixon Trail continues to be a hikeable option for outdoor enthusiasts. It is this group of folks and their coordinators (Turner Darden for the eastern section, Kay Way for the central section, and Ron Gray for the western section) that are the backbone of M-DTS.

It is in the area of maintenance that I as President will focus my attention--to keep the trail open and well-blazed so that everyone may enjoy it's beauty. All of us should continue to keep our eye out for possible relocations, wherever we might be able to get the trail off of a macadam road surface and into a wooded or at least more bucolic setting. As I think about our Mason-Dixon Trail, I picture its entire 180-mile length and the really neat, picturesque sections, and I also keep fresh in mind those areas where relocations will make the trail even better. At this time the major relocation projects include:

- *Avoiding Newark and the tracks by re-routing the trail to pick up the first arc corner stone, the tri-state corner marker, and the first Mason-Dixon stone on the straight boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland and following along the bank of Big Elk River in the Fair Hill recreation area.

- *Making some adjustment to avoid the encroaching development on Grays Hill east of Elkton.

- *Getting from Havre de Grace to Susquehanna State Park without having to use MD RT. 155.

- *Eliminating the walk along US RT.1 at Conowingo.

- *Staying closer to the river south of Peach Bottom along Michael's Run to avoid the excessive road walking in that area.

- *Skirting along the river from Robinson's Run to Cold Cabin north of Peach Bottom.

- *Continuing along the northern edge of Muddy Creek after crossing the bridge at the gaging station to avoid road walking.

- *Perhaps improving our descent into Wrightsville using fewer roads and more woods or fields.

- *Finding some trails along the Conewago Creek to get off the roads.

- *And finally, near our western terminus, finding a way to climb Stone Head and Long Mountain to the Camp Tuckahoe area without using the roads.

If we can continue to maintain the trail to keep it open, work on relocations a little at a time, and keep the guidebook current, we will accomplish all that I'd like M-DTS to do. Thanks to all of you for your concern and assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Maerker