

Minutes of the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association Annual Meeting at the Treaty of Paris Hotel in Annapolis MD on May 2, 2009

Members Present: Aquanetta Anderson, Kim Burdick, Sallie de Barcza, Veronica Eid, B.J. Gerber, David Holloway, Jean Hultgren, Frank Jazzo, Ralph Nelson, Carl Nittinger, James Raleigh, Ursula Reed, Robert Reyes, Ellen von Karajan, John Welsh, Jane Woltereck. This is 16 of 36 paid members for 2010; a quorum is 25% or 9.
Others Present (non-member): Charles Coltman, Steve Elkinton, Karen Rehm, Marcie Ross, David Smith, David Wagner, Robert Selig, James Morrison Susan Paige Morrison, William Kommalan, Carol Firing, E. Joseph Henwood.

Celebration and Unveiling: Chair Kim Burdick introduced Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer, who unveiled a painting of French troops entering Annapolis and spoke briefly about the colonial history of the city. Kim Burdick acknowledged Robert Reyes' efforts over the last ten years to see W3R designated as a National Trail. She also thanked him for the rare and colorful Revolutionary War commemorative postal posters he brought to hang for the celebration and annual meeting.

Introductions: Self-introductions of board members, board nominees and invited guests.

Orientation to the National Park Service Trail System, by Steve Elkinton, Program Leader National Trails System (See summary in Appendix A)

Program on Development of Trails, by Marcie Ross, State of Maryland (See summary in Appendix B)

Presentations: Vice Chair Robert Reyes presented B.J. Gerber and Steve Elkinton with stamp portfolios.

State Reports:

W3R-MA -- no report

W3R-RI -- no report

W3R-CT: David Holloway noted the dedication of a W3R sign in Wallingford with the French Ambassador. The sign depicts a cavalry unit with 60 horsemen. Dr. Selig will speak; help is needed in getting the French Ambassador to the reception.

W3R-NY submitted a printed report, attached

W3R-NJ submitted a printed report, attached

W3R-PA: Ursula Reed noted they are holding educational forums, ceremonies, and press conferences and are partnering with the PA Historical Society. On May 1 officers of the W3R-PA and others met with the Cynthia Macleod, Superintendent of Independence National Historic Park (INHP), to explore developing a W3R exhibit in an INHP building with high visitor traffic by 2011 for the 230th anniversary of the march to Yorktown.

W3R-DE submitted a printed report, attached

W3R-MD: Robert Reyes reported on a busy year:

September: David Wagner's painting for Jonestown was presented at the Carroll Mansion in Baltimore. It depicts the signing of the Treaty of Paris, showing all the signers.

Robert Reyes coordinated the sale of W3R commemorative postmarks at every major W3R event.

The Maryland Stadium Authority has requested a W3R interpretive sign for Camden Yards. Carol Lee Thompson has done the painting; Dr. Selig and F. Glenn Williams will write the text.

Efforts to fund more wayside signs through the Maryland Heritage Area Authority are underway now. The estimated cost of production is \$5,000 each. Steve Elkinton noted that the cost is closer to \$10,000 per sign now.

The W3R-MD is considering adding as W3R historic activities (1) General Anthony Wayne's march down U.S. 15 through Orange County and (2) the march of the Maryland Line, led by General Mordecai Gist, to Virginia to meet General Washington in Georgetown MD.

W3R-DC: Aquanetta Anderson noted that she held a Summer Institute on the W3R for students and ran a GIS Mapping project for students. Officers of the W3R-DC attended Congressional hearings on naming the W3R a National Historic Trail and provided testimony in favor of renaming the P Street Bridge as the Lauzun Legion Bridge. The CAR and DAR in D.C. have supported the W3R-US at wreath-laying ceremonies. She is assembling a route through D.C. for outreach education.

W3R-VA submitted a printed report, attached (includes the activities of the Atlantic Alliance Committee)

French Connection Salon Exhibit: John Welsh gave a presentation on developing a French Connection salon exhibit, which might be located in the Second Bank Building in Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia. This would include items from his superb collection (to be appraised) and items on loan from European museums. It would be not just an art gallery, but interactive. The NPS requires a two-year study costing \$10,000 to \$15,000 and estimated that the final cost of installing the exhibit would be about \$100,000. This would link both Independence National Historic Park and the French Alliance in Philadelphia. Ursula Reed moved that the **W3R-US write letter of support to NPS and state that we look forward to working together.** Seconded. Motion passed. Others should send letters of support as well (Sons of the Cincinnati, Daughters of the Cincinnati, SAR, and French SAR).

Full-Route Guidebook: Charles Coltman III, from the Society of the Cincinnati (SofC), offered to help with the production of a guidebook covering the entire W3R-NHT. He noted that about 400 of SofC members are descendants of French officers. To illustrate the capability of the SofC to write the guidebook he noted that the SofC has published a book on education “**Why America is Free**” (5th grade level) and has prepared a traveling exhibit, *Maryland in the American Revolution*. The SofC also has a fine library on 18th Century warfare Jim Raleigh moved that **The W3R should accept the Society of the Cincinnati's proposal for help, and we should include the trail in Massachusetts, with support and advocacy from Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.** Seconded. Motion passed.

Outgoing President's Report by Kim Burdick: The W3R-US has accomplished all stated goals thru phase 2. Between now and 2012 we need new benchmarks, no more than five. These should be “low hanging fruit”, achievable and visible. Inclusion of Massachusetts in the trail should be one of these.

The Board acknowledged Kim for her outstanding service and hard work.

Recording Secretary's Report: The minutes for 2008 were approved as circulated and will be posted on Web.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was accepted and filed for audit. It is attached.

Nominations and Election of Directors:

The slate of Directors for 2009-2012 was distributed.

Ralph Nelson noted that nominee Alan Hoffman is a Boston lawyer and a Lafayette scholar, and also announced that Serge Gabriel's term has expired and that he does not wish to be re-elected.

David Holloway noted that John Welsh has appeared at many W3R events during 2006-9 portraying Rochambeau and moved to **Add John Welsh to the ballot for Director.** Seconded. Motion passed.

Ursula Reed noted that Carol Fireing was active with the Delaware Valley Historic Area and moved to **Add Carol Fireing to the ballot for Director.** Seconded. Motion passed.

Nominations were closed; the nominees were

Paul Ackerman, Winthrop Aldrich, Acquanetta Anderson, Roger Begin, Sallie de Barcza, Veronica Eid, Carol Fireing, Alan Hoffman, Nathaniel Howell, Andree King, Anne Kyle, Ralph Nelson, Carl Nittinger, Jim Raleigh, Ursula Reed, Michael Scullin, Robert Stackpole, John Welsh

Ballots were distributed and seventeen ballots (including several proxies) were turned in.

Frank Jazzo was appointed to count the ballots. All nominations were voted in by a majority and the ballots were destroyed.

The Annual Meeting was then suspended so that the Board of Directors could convene for the election of officers.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Directors Present: Aquanetta Anderson, Sallie de Barcza, Veronica Eid, B.J. Gerber, David Holloway, Jean Hultgren, Frank Jazzo, Ralph Nelson, Carl Nittinger, James Raleigh, Ursula Reed, Robert Reyes, Ellen von Karajan, John Welsh, Jane Woltereck. This is 15 out of 31 Directors for 2009-2010; a quorum is 25% or 8.

Note: A person who has been elected to be a Director but who has not paid dues for the year is designated as a Director-elect. That person is neither a member nor a Director, may not vote, and is not counted for a quorum.

The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was presented and then approved by voice vote.

Ralph Nelson, Chair

Sallie de Barcza, Vice Chair

Carl Nittinger, Treasurer

Ellen von Karajan, Recording Secretary

Janet Woltereck, Corresponding Secretary

After this vote had been completed Acquanetta Anderson was nominated for Vice Chair. John Welsh was appointed parliamentarian. After some discussion, Acquanetta Anderson withdrew her name from further consideration, and the new officers were installed.

The Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned and the Annual Meeting resumed.

Other Reports

Atlantic Alliance Committee submitted a printed report (see W3R-VA report)

W3R-US Website Manager submitted a printed report, attached

W3R-US Archives: Kim Burdick said that all papers and archives of the W3R-US are on file in the Special Collections Library at University of Delaware

New Chair's Report: Ralph Nelson wants a focus on getting history reports done for all states and said that a summer meeting and a fall meeting of the Board would be scheduled to develop plans for the coming year. He suggested that we update our vision statement, which currently says our goal is to help the W3R achieve National Historic Trail status. He hopes to start a newsletter in which each state will write about its activities and provide biographic notes on active members. Robert Reyes suggested the newsletter could be distributed via Email to all members and could include articles by volunteers.

He welcomed the new Directors, thanked continuing Directors for their ongoing commitment to the W3R-US, and thanked retiring Directors for their years of service. He will send Life Membership certificates to our four Life Members. He presented outgoing Chair Kim Burdick and outgoing Vice Chair Robert Reyes certificates of thanks for their years of service in leading the volunteer effort to develop the W3R as a public resource for understanding the aid provided by France during the American Revolution.

He distributed at all present a two-page report (attached) by Jacques Bossiere (not present) on the history of the effort to create the W3R. James Raleigh made a motion to **Award Dr. Bossier a lifetime membership in the W3R-US**. Seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business:

-- James Raleigh reported that the Jeremiah Wadsworth Papers (in Connecticut), which deal with supply issues, are a national resource. Wadsworth was the leading American supplier to the French. Dr. Selig has now reviewed 153 of the archive boxes there, containing thousands of names that may not be available through any other resource and that are important to heritage and genealogical organizations. Raleigh asked if Dr. Selig might develop a proposal to create a compendium of these materials. Funding by the Library of Congress or the National Endowment for the Humanities would make this information accessible for study.

-- Julie Bell was acknowledged for having put many W3R reports and documents on a CD so that a word search can be done, improving accessibility to information.

-- James Raleigh recommended that a private executive committee blog be created to secure committee work and information that should be discussed in private.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen von Karajan, Recording Secretary

Appendix A -- Orientation to the National Park Service Trail System

Presented by Steve Elkinton, Program Leader National Trails System

Opportunities for funding

For exhibits and programs: *Connect Trails to Parks Initiative* - submit a proposal Challenge Grants. Cost Share is required. There is a maximum of \$30K for NPS share. Match can be "in kind", which can include volunteer hours. Most NPS grants require a 50/50 match

Enabling Legislation and regulatory matters

The National Trail System Act is the rulebook for W3R-US Trail. W3R-US is an amendment to that Act. See the handout for more info. An excellent article on W3R-NHT's approval by Congress appeared in the *Philadelphia Enquirer*. Called *On the Road with History*, Saturday April 11, 2009 (www.philly.com), this article is a model that could be adapted and issued as a news release by each state.

Advisory Council Requirement

An Advisory Council is required for 10 years, one member of which is appointed by the governor of each state.

Parks vs Trails

Parks are lands owned with boundaries, and they have superintendents who administer and manage them. Trails are not parks. Trails have no specific boundaries, so NPS administers the trails, frequently with others such as state highway administrations. The common goal is to grow national trails for the future. Entities involved include: Scenic Byways, National Scenic Trails, National Heritage Areas (45 of them) connecting inside trails. There are others involved such as the "Walk America" group – Boy Scouts March, and Bicycle Trail Guides.

Recommendations

Trails that succeed in the long run are membership - 501(c)3 - organizations, not just boards. There are consultants who can help organizations reinvent themselves. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is the model.

Trail boards cannot go it alone and hope to succeed without a solid friends and membership base. The federal government is not the largest source of funds for trails: 85% is given by individuals, 6% by corporations, and 6% by foundations.

Partnerships and friends groups are the topic of note at the National Trail System Conference, and training in this key organizational development tool is critical and highly recommended to this board.

The development of the comprehensive management plan is the next step (see the Santa Fe Trail as a model), and should include a vision for 10, 20, and 30 years from now.

Meet with Dennis Ridenback, Regional Director for National Trails, and define for him the following: this is where we want to go, with youth, with the French, with connectivity, for land, on water, battlefields, and signage.

Partnership for the National Trail Conference meets in odd years and focuses on scenic and historic trails. This is attended by US government representatives and state and local trail people. A focus is learning how to be strategic about special events and reenactments and planning all events to grow the membership of the trails.

Appendix B -- Program development on trails

by Marcie Ross, State of Maryland

Trail Tours: Great Alleghany Passage Trails (Programs)

1. Useful as an example because it rains stakeholders to see the world through the eyes of the user. Programs include ways to integrate and provide services for all groups. A shop might offer for bicyclists: you peddle, you shop along the trail, you buy, we ship. See also Google Trail Towns and British Trails.
2. Take advantage of the urban nexus- cities have schools, money, immigrant populations and underserved populations to work with.
3. Get to know the Regional Director of the W3R-US Trail and put him on the mailing list.
4. 1916 Centennial of Park Service –many celebrations will be planned, see how to tie into these
5. Secretary of the Interior can do land acquisition and provide historic site and preservation assistance. This can include preservation sites not just battlefields but also reference the American Battlefield Protection Program
6. See “Rails to Trails” Conservancy—quick guide to TEP (Transportation Enhancement Program) money and how it fares in Congress.

Issues for national trails:

Trails may be hard to find. How to make them visible is a key issue.

Scenic trails are long and fragmented and sites may be far apart. How can you connect them?

Trails are difficult to present coherently to the public in terms of type face, signage, etc.

Congress is nervous about access, land owner rights,

GIS/GPS > who controls the info, how accurate is it? Products need to be united:

One model is the use of NPS owned software, hardware with the partner providing the staff

Research is never done, we keep finding new info, so be ready for change.

Goals (Partnership for National Trail System will focus on these three goals in July in Missoula MT)

1. **Insure all significant resources are adequately protected by 2018**
2. **Completing the scenic trails with the acquisition of private lands**
3. **See that all Americans know there is a National Trail System**

The role of a strong public interest activist and lobbyist is important, an example is: Gary Warner—Partnership for National Trail System (nattrails@aol.com). He has developed great relations in Congress, and excels at group outreach to Congress. This Partnership has already asked for \$150,000 for NPS staff and is able to match.

Comprehensive Management Plan -

Work on the Comprehensive Management Plan for W3R-US will begin late in 2010 or early 2011. Steps to take in advance include these:

Prepare a list of who should be on the Advisory Council

Get service mark protection for logo, think about how to do marketing and outreach and FAM tours on parts of trail.

Think about target markets, for example:

Seniors: Elder Hostel already has 75 different classes that feature NPS sites, see their catalogue. W3R-US can participate by getting Bob Selig to coordinate with local partners and come for a week to teach on American Revolution and take people to Philadelphia and Valley Forge, and other sites.

Youth Involvement: Examples include wagon train reenactment with high school students, living history events that enable them to learn and dramatize what it was like to be a soldier, a sailor, a homeowner in a particular area. Plan to involve youth on National History Day, and in all local events.

Tax Status: Get a good lawyer to rewrite the bylaws and concentrate on reinventing the current organization as a 501(c) 3 membership organization now that it is a National Trail.