

**Side Trail Resolution**  
ATC Stewardship Council  
May 2008

**Side Trails**—In May, based on a resolution from an ATC member that was tabled at the Ramapo biennial meeting and referred to the Stewardship Council, the Council passed an “advisory resolution” (below). Recognizing that this request may be onerous to some clubs and guidebook editors, it is advisory, allowing time for changes to maps and guidebooks and making adaptations on the ground. Additionally, some clubs face vandalism and cannot practically maintain side-trail signs in all cases. The Council hopes to dialog with the clubs and landowning agencies to achieve more control and accuracy regarding side-trail development affecting the ANST.

**Advisory on Side Trails Passed by the Stewardship Council, May 3, 2008**

ATC agrees that “official” side trails are those recognized and maintained by the A.T.-maintaining clubs. Side trails either should be maintained and marked with signs and blazes, or abandoned and obliterated. Such official club-maintained side trails should be shown on ATC maps and mentioned in A.T. guide books. Unofficial or unmaintained trails should be removed from maps.

Guide books and maps should indicate the club responsible for the maintenance of such “official” side trails. If a side trail is maintained by another organization in a club’s area of responsibility, it is up to the club to ensure that it is properly identified and documented. A standard disclaimer should be in all guide books that A.T. clubs cannot certify the accuracy or maintenance of “unofficial” trails that may develop or appear on other maps. These are in fact prohibited unless they are formally recognized under ATC Side and Connecting Trails Policy, which requires prior authorization by the land-managing agency partner as part of ATC’s authorization.