

Code	517062
Subject	Peg Bobel
Date	6/24/2008
Interviewer	Michael King
Special Notes	with Tim Gallagher

minutes:

Bobel born in Akron, stayed in Akron for family reasons and
0 because of commitment to area

1

involved as one of many in creation of Cuyahoga Valley
2 park, interested in bigger picture, land conservation projects
park and heritage corridor part of better way to interact with
3 nature

sustainable economic development of lower valley, place to focus
4 energy to find better way for humans to live

one of many volunteers who helped to start park; Sierra Club
joint committee between Akron and Cleveland, continues to

5 volunteer

1989-2001 Executive Director Cuyahoga Valley Association, wrote
Trail Guide to The Park, Nature of the Towpath, Beyond Cleveland
on Foot, starting many volunteer organizations with

6 husband "that's how stuff gets done"

7

Sierra Clubs for the Cuyahoga Valley cooperation between

8 Cleveland and Akron

joint Sierra Club committee formed to help with park, met on a
9 monthly basis

10 grew up urban Akron, but loves nature

became interested in nature as young adult, childhood memories of
11 Virginia Kendall park and Monroe Falls for picnics

became environmentally aware as young adult during early
environmental movements, sought solice in nature, love of nature

12 combined with writing

13 influence of Aunt as guide in nature and literature

satisfaction when park went from isolated, misunderstood piece of
14 geography to having greater meaning in minds of leaders and people

hosted first meeting to talk about Heritage Corridor idea: idea
15 of connecting

Trails Council approached by John Devo to promote idea of
connecting park to Akron as well as to Cleveland, many people

16 still do not know about National Park in their area

17

park threatened during Reagan era, but no local opposition to
18 Heritage Corridor

19 excitement of young adults about conservation and environment
the park started the idea, "don't find the perfect place to live,

20 make this the very perfect place to live."

Ledges-feels at home at the Ledges, wonderful perspective, one of
21 few places she went as child, left impression

22 memories of CCC buildings, old wood and damp stone

loved school and putting words onto paper, to make sense of
thoughts, did newsletters for Sierra Club and Trails
23 Council, evolved into writing books about park
firstwritten work through Trails Council, Trailguides self
24 published, many people helped to create books with Bobel,

worked with acutal publisher for Beyond Cleveland on Foot, Nature
25 of the Towpath was Bobel's favorite book, all her own writing
early writing was bad, hopefully getting better by working with
26 "real" editors

27 goal is to create clear writing, so people understand
28

Trail Guide best selling book in park visitor centers, book goes
29 beyond maps to bigger meaning of park
30

responding to needs was the nature of her volunteerism, period of
31 starting many new groups to address different needs
32

"I hope to think I have done some good." in various roles, hope to
33 make area place people want to stay in and work
34

wants to research and write on CCC work in Ohio, especially
conservation, Friends of Crooked River would like to see a
35 book/guide to the river

the need for continued work on controlling development,
especially unplanned, uncontrolled development, could not be
36 addressed by those working inside the park
efforts by Corridor Project group, northeast Ohio Metro-Park
groups and fifteen county planning efforts to protect and
37 conserve regional land
38

39 Park as classroom setting

"If something needs done, get involved." a lot of people played
40 "tiny" roles but all tiny pieces work together to get things done
41

42 advice to get things done: persevere

43 shift energies from time to time, to keep fresh

burned out in career as social worker, but uses same skills in
44 current work;

45 find inspiration from other's work

reflecting on past gives an opportunity to realize her work may
46 have made a difference
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