

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, December 19, 2022

Present:

Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Dylan Alden, Barb Bloomberg, Amy Berrier, Pam Hayden, Wyatt Berrier, Sharon Morrison, Kit Morgan, Suzanne Morgan, and Rob Farnum.

Guest:

Marsha Colcord

Meeting called to order at 7:15.

Secretary's Report:

November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved. Also approved was a motion to pay membership dues to Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club for the coming year. TOC has received a total of \$13,000 from the Tamworth Foundation for the ski program over the past two years (\$5,000 for 2022 and \$8,000 for 2023). Since there was no ski program last year, Teresa will return the \$5,000 to the Foundation.

Ski Program:

Teresa reports that volunteers have signed up to help as follows: 27 alpine instructors with 4 substitutes; 8 snowboard instructors; 7 X/C instructors; 4 non-ski volunteers. The program will start on Friday, January 13 and run for six Fridays, plus a full "Snow Day" in March. So far, 81 children have signed up for the program. There was discussion about volunteer training and registration. Teresa is waiting for an update about the status of current volunteers, which she will receive from ESSC.

Grooming:

Rob groomed the Ferncroft and Mt. K trails after the recent storm. Amy will coordinate with him about posting grooming reports on the Exchange when grooming is done. She will include a request that those using trails pick up sticks that have fallen to assist in keeping the trails clear.

Christmas Tree:

The tree is amazing! Board agreed to take it down on or after January 6.

Ski Program Trailer:

John Gotjen has been transporting student gear from Brett School to King Pine for many years. He will do this for the coming season, but has informed TOC that this will be his last year. The trailer belongs to him, so there was discussion about the TOC acquiring a trailer of our own. Could we get one donated? Who will tow the trailer in future years?

Snack Trailer:

The TOC snack trailer is currently stored in Wyatt's sand pit. He and Amy will keep it cleared of snow to prevent damage.

Winter Fest:

The Chocorua Lake Conservancy (CLC) will host a Winter Fest at The Preserve in Chocorua. This venue has been donated for the event by owner Mary Phelps. CLC invited TOC to be a "partner" in the event at some level. Sharon and Barb attended the event planning meeting and reported to the board. Winter Fest will be held on Saturday, February 4, with a "Snow Day" alternative in mid-March. CLC has offered this event as a fundraiser for TOC. To do that, TOC must be willing to pay up to \$900 (half of the estimated \$1,800 event budget). In return for this investment, TOC would receive half of the event proceeds. Some of the ways that this event will generate income are ticket sales/donations, room rentals at The Preserve, cash bar, and a silent auction. There was discussion about whether TOC should be a participant or a partner in this event.

Mark met with Mary Phelps to look over a potential trail around her property that could be groomed with the TOC snowmobile and old drag. He described several stone walls and other tricky spots that would need to be navigated. There was discussion about the pros and cons of grooming this trail.

A motion was passed to "Make Winter Fest 2023 a fundraising event, with TOC a partner with CLC, by paying up to \$900, which is half of the projected \$1,800 event budget".

Sharon and Barb will continue to liaison with CLC and report back to the board as the event takes shape.

Sled Dog Fun Day:

The date for this event is Sunday, February 5, 2023, with a backup date of March 5. TOC is working with Carissa Daniels (New England Sled Dog Club) and Marsha Colcord (North Country Musers) to plan short and long distance events on that day. Marsha reports that she spoke to Henry Binney about musher parking in his field on the west side of Route 113A and that he has declined the TOC request for this permission. Since the event depends on parking for both groups of mushers, securing permission from other landowners is essential. Other options include:

- Helen Steele's property, east of the Wonalancet cemetery. Wyatt will contact Helen and set up a meeting to review what area can be plowed for parking.
- Wonalancet Chapel. Wyatt will contact Chapel board member, Sally Mann, and ask if musher parking can be plowed on Chapel property.
- Nancy Coville's property. Amy will contact Nancy to see if some parking may be available on her property.

Carissa Daniels thinks that NESDC might have up to twenty teams, but registration would be limited by parking availability.

Wyatt will set up a date/time for an on-site parking review in Wonalancet and will notify the board via email as to when this will be. **Parking must be resolved by January 1, 2023!**

Board approved ordering two bullhorn/megaphones for use at the event.

Marsha says that NCM and NESDC will handle musher registration for the races.

Dylan has agreed to be volunteer coordinator. Volunteer jobs and timeslots must be determined, then she can sign people up to help out.

Pam and Barb will coordinate food for the snack shack.

Ferncroft trails should be closed to skiers and walkers for race day. This should be posted at the trailhead and on the Exchange.

TOC needs to get permission to groom a connector at the south end of her western field, in order to create a loop trail. This was successful last year.

Sled Dog Fun Day summary:

- **Grooming:** Rob (and others?)
- **Parking permissions:** Wyatt & Amy
- **Food:** Pam & Barb
- **Volunteers:** Dylan
- **Publicity:** ??
- **Racing Schedule:** Marsha

- **North Country Mushers contact:** Marsha
- **New England Sled Dog Club contact:** Carissa Daniels

Contradances:

Amy reminded everyone about the upcoming New Year's Eve dance. She will give TOC Christmas lights to Teresa, who will arrange to have them put up in the hall. Mark and Teresa will do the door.

Annual Appeal Letter:

The board decided to send this out in January. Wyatt will write the letter and send it to Minuteman Press for printing and mailing.

Other Business:

Kit will work with Rob to get the TOC groomer and snowmobile registered. Teresa will write a check for this as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier

Next TOC meeting is on Monday, January 30, 7:15 at Cook Library