

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, March 30, 2015

Present:

Sheldon Perry, Kathi Brown, Brian Cutter, Amy Berrier, Trevor Tasker, Anne Chant, Matt Schartner, Tracey Noyes, & Mark Anthony

Meeting called to order at 7:35

Secretary's Report:

February minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Report was approved as presented.

Matt asked if sled dog revenue was up or down from the previous year. Kathi says it was higher, although Brian said that not as much food was sold as in past years.

Sheldon needs to send a letter to the town formally requesting disbursement of funds that were approved by voters at town meeting.

In regards to the outstanding sled dog sponsorship payments, Brian remembered that Stan used to stuff a copy of race publicity in with the bills. This is an idea for future years to encourage prompt payment by sponsors.

The question of how to spend memorial fund monies came up. Related to this was a discussion of the Roy Grace recreation field project (perhaps TOC could fund a sign or some other element of this project). There has been some controversy surrounding the process used to advance this project. Matt was the only one present tonight who attended the informational meeting about the Roy Grace field proposal, held recently at Runnells Hall. He says that anyone with questions should contact Chris Money Penny. Amy felt strongly that TOC should not get involved at this point, due to the controversial nature of the project and how abutting landowners have been treated badly through the initial stages of the project. Others on the board agreed that TOC should wait to offer any support or involvement.

Baseball Program:

Mark Anthony was in to discuss 2015 baseball programs. He said that changes have been made to the Cal Ripken leagues. Tamworth will now be playing with teams in the Mount Washington Valley; Ossipee will join the Kingswood league; Tamworth and Ossipee will no longer play each other as they have for many years in the past. This move is not "official" for Tamworth this year, but more of a formal trial, with full membership in MWV Cal Ripken in the future (2016?).

Mark says that there are six CR teams. Each team plays from ten to twelve games during the season. Of these sixty games, approximately thirty are held on Tamworth fields. When asked if there are enough fields available in Tamworth, Mark said no. When games begin, there is no longer field space available for practice. Depending on when the fields are clear, teams can sometimes have very little practice time before the season begins. This makes it difficult for players to develop adequate playing skills. Trevor (who coaches with the program) agreed that this is a problem. KA Brett fields have limited use for CR teams. One field is too big for CR play; other fields have restrictions on when they can be used due to school games.

Equipment is needed for the Rookie team this year. Mark will notify Kathi with a budget.

Discussion of whether batting cage can be moved to Rec fields.

Note that lacrosse is taking some kids away from baseball, but Mark still sees a lot of enthusiasm for baseball in Tamworth.

Jim Hidden may head up a Babe Ruth team for older players. There is currently a lot of talent and interest in Madison-Tamworth-Freedom to do this. Mark is not sure who has old BR equipment, but says that many kids at this level have their own gear. TOC will help out with equipment if needed.

Sheldon wants to see baseball schedules go onto TOC website and on Tamworth Exchange.

Sled Dog Summary:

See related discussion under treasurer's report section.

Jim Harrison has offered to make chili for the cook shack next year.

Brian was appreciated by the board for grooming (for races and for ski trails in Wonalancet).

Junior Ski Program:

Kathi says that the 2015 program is over and that it went well. One volunteer was injured when a student cut in front of her. Ski awards will be presented at the school assembly in April.

Board will discuss 2016 program at an upcoming meeting in June or July.

Website:

There are several photos, a video, and a letter from Betsy Loughran about the dances that should go on the website. Sheldon will forward all of this to Amy and she will be in touch with Mark Smith to have updates made to our website. Brian thinks that NESDC photos are in the public domain and that we can use them on our site.

Note: TOC website was updated with new cover photo, dance letter, dance video, a 2015 caller listing, and more as of 4/1/15. Looks great!

Non-Profit Filing:

No update at this time.

Dances:

Amy and Sheldon received a detailed email regarding the 2015 dances from Kem Stewart. Kem has booked callers each Saturday night from June 27 through September 5. Amy will enlist hosts for each dance.

Listed below are Kem's questions and Amy's 3/31 reply to him, based on board decisions:

Hi Kem,

Thanks for all of your good work to set the summer TOC dance schedule. Based on discussions at last night's TOC board meeting, here are answers to your questions:

1. I think we should pay the performers \$250 plus half the gate in excess of \$250. This is a typical structure, and these folks are used to getting a good bit more than \$250 for weddings, private parties, etc. They also did some schedule rearranging to fill out our series.

The board has agreed to the terms above, with the following parameters: 1) The caller will receive a check from TOC at each dance for \$250. 2) If the caller has musicians who need to be paid on the evening of the dance, the caller is responsible for paying these people (in cash or check) from their own pocket. 3) The caller must provide TOC with a mailing address. 4) TOC will send a check to the caller for half of the gate in excess of \$250 once the cash take from the dance has been tallied. Please explain to the callers that any money in excess of the \$250 payment will not be paid out on the night of the dance, and that it will be mailed as a check.

2. Do we have to book the Town Hall, or is it always at TOC's disposal on Saturday nights, year-round? Anne Chant of the TOC board will notify Parker Roberts (in charge of Town House) that the building needs to be open by 6:30 on each dance evening. The "host" for the evening will be responsible for closing up the Town House after the dance.

3. Dave Harvey brought up the concern about the July 4 town fireworks, wondering whether we should move the dance to the school, and schedule the break to coincide with the fireworks. What do you think? I don't have an opinion, and no memory of whether this has been done in the past, or how the fireworks display affects dance attendance when they coincide. The board decided - for a variety of reasons - that all dances, including July 4, will be held at the Town House. Same time, same place, each Saturday night.

4. The TOC website currently says:

"The dances are held on the second floor of the Tamworth Town House, at 27 Cleveland Hill Road in Tamworth Village, most Saturday evenings from Independence Day through Labor Day, 7:30–10:30."

I think we should replace that with:

"The dances are held on the second floor of the Tamworth Town House, at 27 Cleveland Hill Road in Tamworth Village, from 7:30-10:30. In 2015 there will be a dance every Saturday evening from June 27 through September 5."

You could list the lineup as well, if you like.

Great suggestion!. We will pass along the change to our webmaster.

5. Do you have a printed flyer that you've used in the past, that we can update? We have had posters in years past, but are hoping most of our publicity will be via the Internet. Can we count on you to send dance listings to various media outlets (including dance web listings), as well as the Tamworth Exchange and the Sandwich Board? Please let us know how you will be handling publicity for 2015 dances. We will get listings into the Tamworth Civic News calendar and will inquire about updated posters.

Again, many thanks for all of your help on the dances. We all look forward to a great summer season!

Amy, on behalf of the TOC board

Meeting adjourned at 8:32

Next meeting is Monday, April 27 at 7:15

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier