

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, September 27, 2021

Present:

Amy Berrier, Wyatt Berrier, Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Robbie Farnum, Anne Chant, Barb Bloomberg, Dylan Alden, & Kit Morgan.

Guest: Dan Beauregard (Tamworth Recreation Director).

This meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Secretary's Report:

The July minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report was approved. Teresa Fournier is taking over from Kathi Brown as treasurer and is considering switching from Quick Books to Excel for managing the TOC finances. Teresa has looked into purchasing Quick Books, and versions that she has found are expensive (\$700 plus a yearly fee). Teresa will ask Kathi to export TOC financials into an Excel format for transfer.

There was a question about website expenses. Amy thinks that all of these go through Mark Smith, our webmaster.

Teresa needs minutes showing that she has been appointed treasurer. This is for banking purposes. Robbie made a motion to approve Teresa Fournier to be on the TOC bank account signature card as treasurer. Motion approved.

Motion to approve payment of yearly dues to Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club. Motion approved.

Trails:

Kit and Robbie gave a report about the trail walk done 9/26 by the two of them, plus Amy, Barb, Wyatt, and Paul King. There was some discussion about the chronically wet spot on the upper loop. Should we lengthen the puncheon bridge that currently spans that area? Mark suggests building on/off ramps and he may be able to get pressure-treated lumber from a bridge that OVSC is dismantling. There will be a work day on the Ferncroft trails on Tuesday, October 12. This will start at 7 AM with coffee, tea, and baked goods in the parking lot.

So far, the tool list includes:

- Powered pole saws: Wyatt and Robbie
- Chain saws: Dylan, Wyatt, and Robbie
- Manual pole saws: Dylan and Kyle Ball
- People can bring loppers, hand saws, and shovels

After this initial work session, we will reassess and plan additional dates/times as needed, including Willie and Robbie Farnum bringing a tractor/backhoe to pull stumps and widen some sections for the new groomer.

There was a question about mowing the trail. Karl Behr usually does this, but due to recent surgery may not be able to. Need to resolve who will do the mowing.

Dylan brought up the idea of expanding the current Ferncroft trail system, mainly on existing woods roads. The USFS is planning a timber sale in the area in the future and this may be an opportunity to make new trails.

Recreation Director:

Tamworth's new Rec Director, Dan Beauregard, attended this meeting. Board members gave him a brief overview of TOC activities, including ski trails in Wonalancet. Dan knows that other groups in town, including TOC, do many activities. He is looking at "what he can bring" in addition to what is already being done.

Hemenway Trails / Duck Pond Loop:

The NH Bureau of Trails proposed improvements to the Duck Pond Loop Trail, in conjunction with logging being done in that area, in order for snowmobiles to use it. This would be a partnership between the State and OVSC, similar to the arrangement covering Big Pines Natural Area trails and the State/Tamworth Conservation Commission partnership there. Mark walked the Duck Pond trail and spoke to George at OVSC. Mark relayed to the TOC board that this is a State-initiated project and that OVSC does not feel the need to weigh in with TOC on this topic. More discussion ensued, including questions as to whether input given to the State by trail users interested in preserving it as a non-motorized trail have been taken into consideration. The NH Bureau of Trails would likely have info on all of this.

Annual Appeal Letter:

A decision has been made by the board to send out an appeal letter similar to what was done last year. Dylan and Amy will write the letter and work with Minuteman to get it printed and mailed out. Dylan will merge the donor contact info from the groomer GoFundMe campaign with the main TOC list. Kit wondered if we should have an email list to promote our events. A request for email addresses will be added to the appeal letter.

Reach the Beach:

The TOC management of the White Lake Station, under the leadership of Kent Hemingway, was a success. Comments were made at this meeting that directional arrows provided by RTB were confusing for many runners. Feedback should be given to RTB organizers.

Ski Program:

TOC received a \$5,000 grant from the Tamworth Foundation. This will be Kathi Brown's final year running the program and there was discussion as to the best succession plan. Amy will connect with Kathi to discuss this and find out from her if she can think of anyone suited to taking her place in 2022-2023 and beyond. A suggestion was made that Kathi write down detailed instructions for tasks associated with running the program.

Adopt-a-Highway:

The fall TOC cleanup will be Saturday, October 23. Meet at Rutabaga parking lot at 7:30 AM to get bags, vests, and road section assignments.

Halloween!!!

TOC will once again coordinate Halloween-in-the-Village, including afternoon (1:30) pumpkin carving and evening (starting at 5:00?) Trick-or-Treating on Sunday, October 31.

This is what we have, so far:

- Pumpkins: Amy will solicit donations from farms, businesses, and individuals, both in person and on the Exchange. People are also encouraged to bring their own pumpkins to carve.
- Lights & Lighters: Barb will assess what we have from last year and will buy additional battery lights, candles, and lighters as needed.

- Candy: Robbie will place a candy donation cooler on his porch. Amy will include this in her message on the Exchange.
- Fire pit: Mark will bring Kent and Carolyn's fire pit to the pumpkin carving. Also firewood and water?
- Trick-or-Treat Locations: Robbie will go around the Village and identify locations for T-or-T stations.
- Scary Barn: Wyatt and Robbie are making plans to set up a walk-through experience in Robbie and Ashley's barn (behind their house).

Volunteers will be needed to host T-or-T stations and help throughout the day. Hopefully the pumpkins will be picked up and taken to the Steele Farm sheep at the end of the evening.

Other Business:

Kent requested that the board approve spending the remaining Dana Steele Memorial Fund for the afterschool Advantage Kids Tennis & Yoga Program. A motion was approved to spend \$270 for this program.

Tim Brown has offered wooden saw horses to the TOC that are in his shop. Robbie and Mark will take these.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM. Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier