

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, February 22, 2021

Present (via Zoom):

Board Members: Anne Chant, Amy Berrier, Wyatt Berrier, Suzanne Morgan, Kit Morgan, Kathi Brown, Barb Bloomberg, Dylan Alden, Carolyn Hemingway, Kent Hemingway, Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, & Robbie Farnum.

This meeting was called to order at 7:17.

Secretary's Report: The January minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was approved.

Trails & Grooming:

Robbie described the extensive repairs he has made to the drag, which is likely about thirty years old. The snowmobile is a 2016 and has 3,000 miles on it. Kit talked about the idea of replacing this equipment and plans to visit other trail networks with Robbie and Mark to evaluate grooming options.

Amy discussed the proposal to apply for grant money from the Tamworth Foundation. There are two types of grant funding available this year: Covid support grants and the regular, semi-annual grant pool. Amy will put together a grant request for March 1 and send it around to the board for review before submitting it. Foundation can decide whether or not this qualifies for Covid funds.

Robbie described UTV (Utility Task Vehicle) options, with year-round usage, as tracks can be swapped with wheels for summer trail work. The proposed wider drag would speed up trail grooming and be better for both ski and sled dog trails.

Several board members expressed support for improving the TOC grooming equipment. After more discussion, Robbie made a motion to request up to \$20,000 from the Tamworth Foundation towards purchase of a new groomer and drag. There were several "seconds" and the motion passed.

Discussion of expanding the Ferncroft trail network, the issue of dog waste on the trails, and whether or not to increase the hourly rate for grooming.

Amy made a motion and Barb a second, to increase the grooming rate to \$20/hour. Kit, Robbie, and Mark abstained from the vote, as they are paid for doing the grooming. The motion passed.

TOC Visibility:

Carolyn proposed the idea of getting high-visibility vests or jackets with TOC ID on them (“TOC Trail Ambassador” or “TOC Trail Crew” or something). These could be worn while skiing or working on trails, highway cleanup, Reach the Beach, etc. She will research options.

Might also be good to get a TOC decal or magnet for the groomer.

Town Rec Department Committee:

Suzanne and Barb gave an update on the committee’s work. The group is writing a job description for a new Rec Director and people on the committee will support this person once hired by the Select Board. There was discussion of the connection between the new Rec Director and other community groups in town, such as TOC.

Trail Map:

During the recent Community Needs and Ideas forum hosted by the Tamworth Foundation via Zoom, outdoor access came up as a topic. Some people in town, especially new residents, don’t know how and where to find trails.

Amy described the Recreational Trails in Tamworth map done by Joe Binsack for the 2000 Tamworth Today book. Several trail networks were combined on this single map, with permission to publish from all groups involved (TOC, WODC, CLC, OVSC, TCC, etc.). One concern about redoing a map like this is that there is the risk of over-exposure of trail info once it gets online. There was discussion.

Membership:

Dylan explained that there was some confusion with online donations due to separate buttons for “donate” and “membership”. She is working with Mark Smith to iron out issues.

Other Business:

Barb has once again invited all who are interested to join her for a complimentary day of skiing at Cranmore, date TBA. Thank you Barb!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Next meeting is March 29, 7:15, via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier