

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, October 25, 2021

Present:

Amy Berrier, Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Robbie Farnum, Anne Chant, Kent Hemingway, Carolyn Hemingway, Dylan Alden, Suzanne Morgan, & Kit Morgan.

This meeting was called to order at 7:17.

Secretary's Report:

The September minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved.

Halloween:

Amy and Robbie gave an overview of what will be happening on Sunday, 10/31. See below for planning notes:

Pumpkin Carving:

- Volunteers will gather at History Center lawn around 1:00; carving starts at 1:30
- White Mountain Ceili Band will perform, starting at 2.
- Mark & Teresa will bring fire pit, wood, and water
- Robbie will bring tarps; Amy will bring tarps and buckets
- Participants will bring their own carving knives & scoops
- Scoops are also needed from TOC members
- Anne will pick up pumpkins at Steele Farm; Barb has a carload of pumpkins from Grand View Farm that she will bring; Kent will retrieve additional pumpkins from Barb's garage. *(Note: we ended up with 70-80 pumpkins, with an extra dozen donated by Remick Farm)*
- All carved pumpkins will be placed along Main Street immediately after the carving *(Thank you Robbie and Karl Behr for trucks to do this!)*

Candy:

- TOC received a \$100 donation from The Barnstormers for candy. Katy Thompson donated \$50. Robbie used this money to purchase candy.
- Robbie reports over 4,000 pieces of candy to drop off at trick-or-treat stations.

Pumpkin Lights:

- Barb has battery lights, votive candles, and glass holders. She has also purchased lighters.
- Barb will be in charge of pumpkin lighting on Halloween eve and checking on pumpkins throughout the night.

Trick-or-Treat Volunteers and Locations:

- Volunteers should arrive at 4:45 in front of the Town Office to get candy for their station. Trick-or-Treat will run from 5-7. Olde MacDonald's Terror Barn will be open from 6-8 (behind Farnum residence).

Location

Host

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Town Office | Dan Beauregard (Tamworth Rec) |
| Other Store | Katy Thompson & crew |
| UU Church | UU Church members |
| Cook Library | CML staff |
| Sally Flagg residence | Jean Williams |
| Behr/Ball residence | Hillary Behr & Kyle Ball |
| Priestman residence | Priestman family |
| Tatarczuk residence | Mark & Teresa Fournier |
| Behr residence | Karl & Sue Behr |
| Gilman Tavern | Becky Dean & husband (John?) |
| Town House | Linda Cook (Friends of Town House) |
| Farnum residence | Danielle Mason & friend |
| Carter rental (next to Behr Farm) | Carol Vaneliere |

Pumpkin pick up:

Thank you to Matt Schomburg for coming to the village at 8 PM to retrieve all jack-o-lanterns for Steele Farm sheep!

A huge THANK YOU to Tanna, Steele, Remick, and Grand View Farms for pumpkin donations, to WMC Band for music, and to all volunteers who helped to make Halloween in Tamworth a truly wonderful occasion for all ages!!

Trails:

The October 12 work party was a success. Lots of clearing and no injuries! Karl is hoping to mow with his tractor. Robbie gave a report and says that some backhoe work would be helpful. Mt. Katherine trail needs an inspection walk. Robbie wants

to make a new turnaround trail next year and the landowner (Binney) is in favor of this. There is a wet area on the lower trail section which needs culvert work. Mark says possible used PT is not available from OVSC.

Groomer:

The new groomer has been delivered to Profile in Conway. Mark suggested we mount a decal on the side acknowledging donors and the Tamworth Foundation. Wyatt was nominated to figure out a design for this. Mark informed the board that he will be doing less grooming this season due to his increased work schedule. The groomer will be stored in Paul King's barn.

Ski Program:

Kathi Brown told Amy that busing issues, as well as other scheduling problems with King Pine, are problematic for the 2022 Ski Program. Kathi will pass along more info as to whether or not there will be a program, once they hold a ski meeting at Brett School. *(Note: The decision was made by Brett staff, due to issues with busing, scheduling, and the inability to have students indoors for snack break, that there will be no 2022 Ski Program. There will be a race team, which TOC can support).*

Sled Dog Race:

Kit has sent an inquiry to New England Sled Dog Club president, Rachel Colbath, to find out if they are interested in scheduling a Tamworth race this season. No word yet. He also spoke with Marsha Colcord regarding the races she has held in the past in Wonalancet. She no longer holds this race due to logistics.

There was discussion about the future of the TOC race on Chocorua Lake. Amy and Dylan made plans to go on a trail inspection *(Amy's notes from this were emailed to the board previously and are included at the end of these minutes)*. If we hold the race, here is what board members said they would do:

- Talk to Larry Nickerson about maintenance of closed Keith trail sections (Amy; *DONE*)
- Grooming (Robbie)
- Cleaning snack shack trailer (Dylan and Suzanne)
- Button selling and cook shack schedule (Anne)
- Trail marking with hemlock boughs on the lake (Mark)
- Sponsorships (_____??)

Annual Appeal Letter:

Dylan will write a draft and Amy will review it.

Cook Library Program:

Amy Carter at CML has asked TOC to do a Zoom talk about the history of our organization. Helen Steele, Nancy Coville, and Kent H. were mentioned as people who might contribute to this, as they have extensive knowledge of TOC. Please send Amy B. your ideas of what could be included in this program. She will contact Amy C. to learn more about the format and timing of the Zoom talk.

TOC Vests:

Carolyn has looked into getting custom-made vests for a variety of TOC uses (highway clean-up, RTB, X/C grooming and skiing, sled dog race, etc). She shared some visuals of possible colors and designs for reflective vests. The board chose red. A motion was made and passed to authorize Carolyn to purchase fifteen vests with the TOC logo, at a cost not to exceed \$350. She may also find out about fleece vests that could be ordered on an individual basis.

Other Business:

Kent reports that the Advantage Kids tennis and yoga program was a great success. He acknowledged Lou DeMaio for his excellent assistance. This program will go indoors as an afterschool program at Brett.

Amy suggested Pam Hayden as a possible board member. She will invite her to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier

October 2021 sled dog trail inspection report, emailed by Amy to the board, 10/31/21:

Trail section 1, Fowlers Mill Road/Knox Hill crossing to Keith property boundary/closure, just past James Pond:

- We (Amy and Dylan) found the trail in fairly good shape, with a few sections in need of brushing along the sides
- Removed one tree leaning across the trail
- Inspected the bridge, just over the line on Keith property
- Here is Dylan's bridge assessment:
- Running boards generally looked fine
- Decking boards rotten on ends, didn't climb under to poke

- Southern stringer sounded punky; the opposite side seemed ok. Didn't check middle one.
- Overall bridge is questionable for groomer traffic.

Trail section 2, Hairpin turn to Keith property boundary/closure, just past upper end of Binsack Trail:

- This section of trail has not been maintained much since OVSC was banned from using it a few years ago
- Hemlock and Beech trees are growing in along much of the trail, reducing passage down to five feet or less in many places
- Looks like a tractor and mower or other large equipment would be needed to clear edges back sufficiently
- Bridges look OK
- One tree has fallen across the trail near the Keith boundary
- There are new signs at the Keith boundary (just past upper end of Binsack Trail), so sections that used to be walkable are now closed

Trail section 3, Hairpin turn, along River Trail to Fowlers Mill Road/Knox Hill Crossing:

- This section of trail is still maintained and is most heavily used of all sections we walked
- Seems to be in good shape overall

Summary:

- With a large portion of the sled dog course now closed, even to walking, it is challenging to know the overall condition of much of the route.
- When I did get permission from Larry Nickerson (Keith caretaker) to walk the closed sections last year, it felt like TOC was not to be trusted and I was uncomfortable being put in the position of having to specify exactly when I would be walking the trails and with whom.
- I talked to Larry this week, asking for his report about closed sections, but I did not ask for TOC permission to walk on Keith land at this time.
- Sections where foot travel access is still permitted (State land, Little land, and possibly Kennett land), but OVSC is no longer welcome, are in need of serious widening if the new groomer is to be used.
- The bridge at the Keith boundary is questionable for use by our new groomer due to rot. Future maintenance of this bridge is unclear.
- Bottom line: Issues of trust, lack of access, and the extraordinary amount of clearing to be done make me question TOC use of these trails for future sled dog races. I would like to hear the level of enthusiasm from NESDC before we do anything further. I would also like to revisit the question of annual access permission from Lisa Keith to the TOC trail crew so that we are allowed, without excessive questioning/scrutiny, to inspect trails each fall. Lacking this trust, I feel uncomfortable with TOC committing to such a huge undertaking as the sled dog race on these trails.