

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, January 31, 2022

Present:

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

Guests: Pam Hayden

This meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Secretary's Report:

There was discussion as to when is the best time to send minutes to board members. (Right after the meeting? Or right before the next meeting.)

December minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

There was discussion as to whether everyone who donates to TOC is a member. Are membership fees/dues separate from donations? Barb wondered if we should clarify the definition of "membership." Perhaps we could generate an email list that sends info about TOC activities directly to members.

David Little donated \$2,500 to the club.

The treasurer's report was approved.

ACT March Event:

Suzanne spoke on behalf of the new Arts Council Executive Director, Max Harrison, who could not join us. ACT will co-host an outdoor event in March with the Tamworth Rec Dept. This will be at the Tamworth Rec Field on Durrell Road. ACT is wondering if TOC can use our new roller to groom a trail around the Rec Field. The general consensus of our board is that transporting our equipment to this location would be challenging and that perhaps someone nearby with a snowmobile could groom it, or people with snowshoes could pack out the trail.

Sled Dog Fun Event:

Sled Dog Committee notes:

The TOC Sled Dog Committee has been exploring options for an event in 2022. After meetings, both via Zoom and in person, here are ideas that we would like to run by the full TOC board for review before our 1-31 meeting. If, after discussion at that meeting, the board agrees that this event is something we would like to pursue, more concrete plans can be made. Here's what we know so far:

- The proposed date/time for a sled dog event, to be held in the Wonalancet Intervale, is Sunday, February 27 from 10-3.
- Marsha Colcord has put the word out to North Country Mushers and has had a very positive response for participation in a “Fun Run” expo type event.
- Marsha suggested creating a schedule of events that might include a “meet & greet” from 10-10:30, followed by small races throughout the day. There could be skijoring and sled race categories.
- Helen Steele has given her enthusiastic permission for a groomed course around the circumference of the chapel field, as well as the field to the east.
- Amy plans to go out on skis before the 1-31 meeting to scope out the trail.
- Wyatt will create a proposed map of the trail loops.
- Jim Bowles has agreed to do the grooming, probably starting two weeks before race day. TOC groomers could assist with this.
- Marsha has signs and snow fencing that would be put up to prevent snowmobiles from straying off their designated trails as they travel through Wonalancet.
- Someone is needed to plow the mushers’ parking area, just east of the Wonalancet cemetery.
- TOC would be responsible for hiring a porta potty for the day to be put at that parking area.
- A suggestion was made that it would be nice to have one or two fire pits.
- No set ideas yet for providing food/drink at the event. Suggestions are welcome!
- Spectators could park on the shoulder of 113A and would have good viewing opportunity at any point along the road.
- Spectators would be clearly asked NOT to bring their own dogs to this event. Marsha cited a very sad situation at a previous race where an altercation between sled dogs and a loose spectator dog resulted in that dog’s death.
- Marsha recommended notifying Tamworth Fire, Rescue, and Police Departments about this event.

Following discussion, the board decided to go ahead with a Sled Dog Fun Event on Sunday, February 27.

Ski Trails & Grooming:

Robbie is working on upgrades to the UTV. He expressed his frustration that Profile did not order the tracks until the UTV showed up. Very unfortunate. Robbie says that the Mt. Katherine trail needs a “haircut” and that many volunteers working together would make this much easier. The Ainsworth Path also needs more clearing.

Can we hire the Trail Fixing Collective to do trail work for TOC?

Insurance:

Anne has called multiple insurance companies to see about coverage for TOC. She has been told that it might be possible for TOC to get coverage for single events. There was discussion about liability insurance for TOC officers. The question was raised if TOC is protected by State of NH law, because we do not charge admission fees. There is a X/C ski areas association in Vermont. Perhaps

if TOC joins this we could get insurance through them. Nothing was resolved regarding insurance.

Other Business:

- Discussion as to whether or not to register and/or insure the TOC snack trailer.
- Does Robbie need a horn when grooming, especially on Mt. Katherine? There are several “sketchy” places where he is concerned about people on the trail not being aware that he is coming along on the groomer.

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