

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, October 23, 2022

Present:

Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Kent Hemingway, Barb Bloomberg, Amy Berrier, Pam Hayden, Wyatt Berrier, Sharon Morrison, and Rob Farnum

Guests: Karl Behr, Vinton Thompson, and Marsha Colcord

This meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Secretary's Report:

September minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved. Teresa still has a check for \$8,000 from the Tamworth Foundation for the 2022-23 Ski Program. There was a mix-up from last year, when TOC received \$5,000 (which was not spent because the 2021-22 Ski Program did not happen) and our \$8,000 request for this year. Teresa will contact the Foundation and straighten this out.

Forest Service Logging in Wonalancet:

Wonalancet landowners, Vinton Thompson and Karl Behr, described the proposed logging by the US Forest Service. This would be the first logging/timber harvest in the area in approximately fifty years. Since the Thompson land has easements and stands between the access and the FS land, the Thompsons and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (easement holder) must give permission for this activity to occur. Vinton has been in contact with Jim Innes from the Saco District. Karl said that there may be an opportunity for leverage to expand the TOC cross-country ski trail network during the negotiations between land owners and the Forest Service. Amy expressed concern about this logging operation cutting off TOC grooming access completely. Mark proposed the idea of creating a trail parallel to the current FS access road so that grooming could continue. The idea of requesting funds for bridge repair/construction was discussed. More on this topic to come in future meetings.

Sled Dog Event:

Wyatt talked about the recent trail walk with musher Carissa Daniels. Marsha Colcord explained how there may be opportunity to hold two different length races.

She is involved with North Country Musers (long-distance racers) and Carissa is with New England Sled Dog Club (short sprint racers). The board agreed that we should stay with a one-day event and that separate parking areas for long and short distance racers is an option. A date (probably in February) should be selected by the November TOC meeting. Ferncroft trails would likely be closed to skiers on that day, while the longer race on the snowmobile trail would share the trail with other users. Although cash prizes were briefly mentioned, TOC would probably do "goody bags" for musers, with dog treats, gas cards, etc. Marsha will talk to Henry Binney (landowner) about clearing a musers' parking area on his field.

Mt. Katherine Trails:

Rob gave a brief (less than two minutes!) summary of trail work done on the Mt. Katherine trails. The next trail work day will be in November, date TBA. Wyatt will ask the Trail Clearing Collective if they can help out with a day of trail maintenance. Pam has a weed whacker with a blade for the next trail work day. Future plans for Mt. K include clearing a better turnaround at the summit.

Ski Program:

Teresa gave an update about the program. The Brett School has the contract for King Pine. The price per student has gone up from two years ago, from \$54 to \$72 per student for skiing and \$60 to \$84 for equipment rental. If students can be brought to Cranmore they can get free rentals for the season from ESSC. TOC usually hires one ski and one snowboard instructor, with other instruction done by volunteers. Sharon will contact John Gotjen about trailering equipment to King Pine each Friday. Busses are the biggest issue for the program. Kent will help coordinate this with Kitty Greene at Brett. Once bussing is resolved, Amy will post info about volunteering on the Tamworth Exchange and in the Town newsletter. The volunteer meeting is at Tuckerman's Brewery in Conway on November 16. Anyone interested in volunteering can start the background check process, available on the ESSC website. The season starts on January 6 and runs for six weeks, Fridays 1-4 PM. The board discussed charges for students and a motion was passed to keep pricing the same as it was two years ago (X/C=\$25, alpine=\$40, snowboard=\$45), with the exception of race team, which will increase to \$50. Matt Krug at Brett School will contact ski works for X/C equipment rentals.

Family Day 5K:

Sharon, Pam, Dylan, and Kent have formed a committee to organize next year's 5K race on July 4.

Insurance:

Sharon reviewed for the board the policy proposal she received from the agent who works with X/C grooming groups throughout the country. This seems like a more suitable policy for TOC, as it would cover equipment, grooming activities, the 5K race, dances, and would provide "directors and officers" (D&O) liability coverage. Although this policy would not cover sled dog events, we can get coverage for these through one of the sled dog clubs involved on that day. Food service would be covered under the D&O section of the policy. The board approved a motion to purchase this insurance, with a cost not to exceed \$3,500. The new policy will cost \$3,084.44, plus \$250 for mandatory membership in the Cross Country Ski Areas Association. TOC will get a partial refund on our current policy, which will offset this cost.

Dances:

Amy asked the board if an exception could be made to the TOC Covid policy for a band member who cannot get the vaccine due to a health condition. This musician plays with Dudley Laufman, who is booked for our New Year's Eve dance. There was discussion. A motion was passed that we consider, on a case-by-case basis for medical exception, allowing an unvaccinated musician to play at a dance and that a negative Covid test from the day of the dance is a requirement.

Halloween:

Pumpkins donations are as follows:

DiFillippe Farm & Greenhouse (40); Pam and Barb will pick these up

Karl Behr (12); he will deliver on Sunday 10/30

Grand View Farm (20); Carolyn will pick up

Davis Natural Produce (20); Lora Colton has these and Amy will pick up

Remick Farm (8); unconfirmed

Mark will bring water and a fire pit to the carving event

Rob has twelve bags of candy

Wyatt will confirm volunteers for Trick-or-Treat stations

Amy will coordinate with Grant Prilliman about pumpkin distribution along Main Street, using his horse-drawn haywagon, on Monday (starting at 3 PM)

Adopt-a-Highway:

People are wondering why the trash bags from Saturday's cleanup have not yet been picked up by DOT. Board nominated Dylan to check into this.

Advantage Kids:

Kent gave an update. Board approved a motion to give \$1,500 per year to support this outdoor tennis and yoga program. This includes \$500 per session for spring, summer, and fall.

Next TOC meeting is on Monday, November 28, 7:15 at Cook Library

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier