

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, November 21, 2022

Present:

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

This meeting, held at Amy and Wyatt's house, was called to order at 5:30.

Secretary's Report:

October minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved.

Mt. Katherine Trail Clearing, #2:

Sunday, December 4 at 9AM was picked as the date/time to gathering for the more trail work. Meet by the Tree Farm sign. **Directions will be emailed before the trail clearing event.** Mark has a "Caution: Groomer Ahead" sign that he will bring to mount on a tree along the trail. Rob has checked on the groomer and it is fine. Track setter will be available for the upcoming grooming season.

Ski Program:

Teresa reports that volunteers have signed up to help as follows: 24 alpine instructors with 4 substitutes; 8 snowboard instructors; 7 X/C instructors; 4 non-ski volunteers. The program will start on Friday, January 13 and run for six Fridays, plus a full "Snow Day" in March. Teresa reviewed the Friday schedule and there was more discussion about the program.

A motion passed to charge \$40 for both alpine and snowboard. *(Note that this is a change from the previous decision by the board to charge \$40 for alpine and \$45 for snowboard).*

There was discussion about the cross-country program.

A motion passed to eliminate the fee (\$25) for the cross-country program.

K. A. Brett Ski Swap:

The school and PTA are putting on a ski gear swap. Amy raised the concern that TOC should not be involved in fitting boots to skis and bindings as this may be a liability issue. Older, damaged, or recalled alpine bindings can be a safety concern

and should not be sold at the swap. Rob says that there are criteria for determining if bindings are “safe” and possibly a list of recalled bindings that could be on hand at the swap.

Annual Appeal Letter:

Wyatt will write the letter and send it to Minuteman Press for printing and mailing.

Christmas Tree:

Rod (?) on Diamond Ledge Road in Sandwich will be donating a tree this year. Wyatt has gone over to see the tree and confirms that it is suitable for the Town Tree at the Veterans’ Triangle. The plan is cut the tree on Friday, 12/2 at 2PM. Four people and a truck are needed. The tree will go up and lights will go on before the tree lighting on Sunday, 12/4 around 5PM. **Contact Wyatt if you can help out with the tree project.**

Family Day 5K:

Dylan, Sharon, Kent, and Pam have formed a subcommittee to plan for next summer’s race. Dylan will be working on race logistics and permits, Sharon will be coordinating online registration and timing, Pam will be recruiting sponsors. The goal is to establish a race in 2023 that is fun and efficient, with the potential for growth in future years.

Sled Dog Fun Day:

The date for this event is Sunday, February 5, 2023, with a backup date of March 5. TOC is working with Carissa Daniels (New England Sled Dog Club) and Marsha Colcord (North Country Mushers) to plan short and long distance events on that day. Rob will be speaking with Henry Binney about parking in the field on the west side of Route 113A. Mark reports that the snowmobile club is working to remove some boulders in the trail where part of the long-distance race may be run. This project will hopefully be wrapped up by winter.

Contradances:

A motion was passed to extend the Second Saturday and New Year’s Eve dance series through 2023.

Note: Alex Moot of CLC has asked if his organization can once again sponsor the August dance. TOC should revisit the sponsorship idea at a future meeting.

Forest Service Logging in Wonalancet:

Dylan reports that the Forest Service will move the access road onto Behr Family land using the original easement. Jessie Dubuque (USFS Wildlife Biologist) and Dylan (USFS Backcountry Trails Manager) surveyed the trails (including possible extensions) in the Ferncroft area for potential Canadian Lynx habitat and found that this area is not suitable for Lynx. Dylan made special note of the trail going left at the top of the current FS access road (Old Mast) and the trail extending straight, beyond our current groomer turnaround. There is an excellent turnaround area further up from the current location. Adding X/C trails in these areas would increase our grooming by approximately two miles. Grooming capacity and timing were discussed, as were other aspects of the FS logging project and its impact on TOC's Ferncroft trail network. Dylan says that this project is still in the planning stages and would not happen this winter.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM, followed by Amy's birthday festivities.....

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier

Next TOC meeting is on Monday, December 19, 7:15 at Cook Library