

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, January 30, 2023

Present:

Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Dylan Alden, Barb Bloomberg, Amy Berrier, Pam Hayden, Wyatt Berrier (by phone), Sharon Morrison, Kit Morgan, Suzanne Morgan, and Rob Farnum.

Guests:

Marsha Colcord (representing North Country Mushers) and Carissa Daniels (by phone; representing New England Sled Dog Club)

Meeting called to order at 7:15.

Secretary's Report:

December minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was approved. Teresa noted that the Junior Ski Team registration cost stayed at \$30 and was not raised to \$50. Five students have signed up for the Race Team.

Ski Program:

Teresa gave the board an update. After two cancelled Fridays (one for rain and one for a no-school snow day), the program had its first session on 1/27. The rental situation is not smooth at King Pine and Teresa will talk to Kitty Greene (Brett School coordinator) and/or King Pine about streamlining this process at the mountain. There was discussion about color levels and skills testing. Teresa will be reviewing the finances of the program with Kitty. Snow Day at Attitash/Cranmore is scheduled for March 14, but this is also a date of teacher workshops at Brett, so Tamworth students may not attend.

Winter Fest:

Sharon gave the board an update on Winter Fest, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 4 at The Preserve in Chocorua. This event is in partnership with The Chocorua Lake Conservancy (CLC). Sharon thanked TOC volunteers for their work so far in preparation and planning. Some changes to the original program will be made, due to the extremely cold weather predicted for Saturday.

The basic schedule is for outdoor activities from 2-5, followed by food, drinks, and indoor activities from 5-7. This event has sold out and there is a waiting list. On January 30, Sharon will be on WMWV Drivetime with CLC's Debra Marnich.

Sled Dog Fun Day:

Amy's summary of the event:

2023 Tamworth Sled Dog Fun Day, Sunday, February 5 from 9-3

- Two sled dog groups will take part in the day's events: North Country Mushers, with organizer Marsha Colcord, and New England Sled Dog Club, with organizer Carissa Daniels.
- NCM and NESDC organizers will recruit teams and set race schedules for their respective clubs.
- NCM teams will run a long-distance race on the snowmobile trails from the Wonalancet Intervale towards North Sandwich. NESDC teams will run short-distance races from the Wonalancet Intervale to the TOC Ferncroft trail network, via the Ainsworth Path.
- TOC board approved participation by dog racers using fat tire bikes, snowshoes, skis, and running. *(Note that Ferncroft landowner, Karl Behr, allows non-motorized use of his trails, so fat tire bikes would be permitted).*
- The Ferncroft trail network will be closed to x/c skiers and snowshoers for race day. Signs regarding this trail closure have been posted at the Ferncroft kiosk and at various points along the trails. This info will also go on the Tamworth Exchange.
- Helen Steele has given her permission for musher parking to the east of the Wonalancet cemetery. This has been clearly marked with grade stakes and has been plowed by Marsha and Jesse Colcord. There will be separate parking areas for NCM and NESDC teams. There is also the option for parking near Wonalancet Chapel. TOC board agreed to pay for plowing, with an amount to be decided in February.
- Helen has also given permission for TOC to groom the connector trail along the southern edge of the Chapel Field. This has been groomed.
- Dylan is organizing volunteers for road crossings, spectator assistance, parking, trash, etc. She will distribute a volunteer list of those helping out so far. Contact Dylan if you know of others who might like to help out. Volunteers should show up early, as some races will start promptly at 9 AM.
- Wyatt has created a map of musher parking, snack shack location, etc. He also drafted a 2023 version of the event poster, which has been put up around town.

- Marsha has signs and snow fencing that will be put up to prevent snowmobiles from straying off their designated trails as they travel through Wonalancet. She will also mark the NCM race route.
- A porta potty has been reserved from Sebastian Septic. This will be delivered on Friday, February 3. Amy will confirm delivery date and time.
- Rob will move the snack trailer from Wyatt's to Wonalancet on Friday. He will also check the generator to make sure it is working and will procure a second/backup propane tank.
- TOC purchased two bullhorn/megaphones. Eight C batteries are needed for each unit (*Sharon will purchase these*).
- Fire pits: Mark and Sharon have agreed to bring fire pits and wood.
- Pam and Barb are organizing food and volunteers at the TOC snack shack. This will be chili, baked treats, and hot beverages. By donation!
- Spectators can park on the shoulder of 113A and will have good viewing opportunity at any point along the road.
- Spectators will be clearly asked NOT to bring their own dogs to this event. **There is a zero-tolerance policy for domestic dogs at this event. If you see someone with a dog, explain that this is a safety issue and that the dog should immediately be put in the car or taken home.**
- Marsha has notified Tamworth Fire, Rescue, and Police Departments, Sandwich Fire, and the local ambulance service about this event.
- Rob will do final grooming of Ferncroft and field trails in the interval on Saturday afternoon.
- Amy has staged snow fencing and directional arrows around the Ferncroft course. She will set all fencing and signs in place early on Sunday morning.
- The Forest Service has approved event use of the USFS access road for February 5.

Additional Sled Dog Fun Day discussion:

Carissa reports that NESDC has 13-15 potential participants/teams coming and Marsha says that NCM will have 5-6 teams. Rob says that both the TOC snowmobile and UTV groomer will be on hand in case of issues along the trails. Carissa asked if NESDC teams could also use the 14-mile trail. This is a possibility. That trail is technical and has several road crossings, starting at approximately 3.5 miles out. These road crossings will be monitored by volunteers during the NCM race. Maybe NESDC teams would turn around at the first road crossing, if they decide to use that course.

Dylan will assemble musher goody bags. She will also bring the TOC race clock.

Amy proposed that TOC pay Jesse and Marsha Colcord for plowing the musher parking areas. Marsha agreed that they will come up with a cost proposal and submit that for our February meeting.

Grooming:

Rob groomed the Ferncroft and Mt. Katherine trails after the recent storms.

Contradances:

Teresa will do the door at the February dance. She will have a questionnaire for attendees to fill out as to whether they would attend dances if TOC dropped the vaccination requirement. Board will reevaluate this policy in February. Dexter Harding has been booking bands and callers and these are all posted on the TOC website.

Other Business:

Rob needs a bigger TOC vest. Mark made a motion to purchase four additional vests: two XL and two XXL. This motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier

Next TOC meeting is on Monday, February 27 at Cook Library. Meeting time TBD. *Wyatt will send out a board survey regarding moving the meeting start time to an earlier slot.*