

## **Tamworth Outing Club minutes, November 27, 2023**

### **Present:**

Amy Berrier, Dylan Alden, Teresa Fournier, Mark Fournier, Rob Farnum, Suzanne Morgan, Kit Morgan, Wyatt Berrier, Sharon Morrison, & Barb Bloomberg. Marsha Colcord also attended.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:50 PM

### **Secretary's Report**

The October 2023 minutes were approved. In addition, minutes from the 11/7/23 emergency Zoom meeting were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The check sent to Advantage Kids in June was never received by that organization. The board agreed that the check should be reissued, which Teresa will do.

The October Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **Rebranding:**

The Rebranding subcommittee met immediately before this board meeting to discuss the new TOC logo and mission statement. The group is working on a logo idea that will be passed along to a graphic designer for further work. Grace Downey has agreed to help with this. Mission Statement ideas were worked on and a draft of this will be ready for the entire board to review before our December meeting.

### **TOC Website:**

Rich Collins, of Thirst Productions, is working on the new TOC website.

The initial \$1,000 cost to build the website was approved at the 11/7/23 emergency meeting. Now the board needs to approve the \$600 annual maintenance fee. Rich explained to Amy that this fee will include any monthly updates to the site needed by the board, plus code updates, virus monitoring, backups, etc. Rich will work with one Point Person from the board to monitor and maintain the TOC website. Wyatt agreed to be this person.

A motion was made and approved to pay Thirst Productions \$600 annually for website maintenance and updating. *Note: Sharon Morrison abstained from voting to avoid conflict of interest, as she is married to Rich Collins.*

### **Sled Dog Fun Day:**

Wyatt met with Al Meisner, new owner of Chinook Trail Farm, to talk about the Sled Dog Fun Day parking area. Al is very enthusiastic about hosting the event and he plans to plow the musher and spectator parking and viewing areas as the winter progresses, so that these areas are ready for our 2024 sled dog races in and around the Wonalancet Intervale.

Marsha Colcord reports that the North Country Mushers (NCM) are considering TOC's interest in a February 18 event. She said that a January race is probably not an option, as that would not give teams enough time to train. The 2023 race course for NCM teams was fourteen miles. The 2024 course could potentially offer both fourteen and twenty-mile options.

Marsha will give 2/18 as our first choice and 2/25 as our second. She also offered to find out who the best contact would be for New England Sled Dog Club.

Bob Cottrell of the Chinook Owner's Association has contacted Sharon regarding coordinating that club's "meet-up" event with our Fun Day. Perhaps owners and dogs could come to Wonalancet and offer interactive options for spectators (rides, education, etc.)

There was discussion about a schedule for the Sled Dog Fun Day, essential to help things run smoothly and for musher and spectator reference.

The map for the race course needs to be redone, especially since the snowmobile trail has been rerouted so as not to include the bridge by Paul King's house, by request of Helen Steele who has built a home nearby.

Sharon will check with the History Center about coordinating their sled dog exhibit with TOC activities in Wonalancet.

### **Christmas Tree:**

Suzanne reports that Ned Beecher and Chris Clyne have offered a tree from their property. Several board members offered to choose a tree and will meet at Ned and Chris's house on Saturday, 12/2 at 8:30.

The tree lighting is set for Saturday, 12/9, at 5PM. Wyatt has the lights.

### **Ski Program:**

Teresa reported that the "begging letter" went out to parents and generated \$2,800 in donations (so far). \$1,000 may be needed for scholarship costs and the remaining extra money will likely be used to purchase extra tickets for volunteer instructors so that the student/teacher ratio can be reduced from King Pine's 8/1 to a more manageable 6/1. As of this meeting, twenty-four volunteers had signed up and of these eighteen are for the alpine program. All children must be registered for Ski Program by 12/1.

Kitty Greene at Brett told Teresa that the skating program does not have funding. She was wondering if TOC would lend financial assistance for this program. This idea got a lukewarm response from the board.

### **UTV/Groomer:**

The new doors for the UTV are arriving on 12/17. Rob has done needed repairs to the groomer.

The trail around the Behr field in Ferncroft needs to be marked with grade stakes. Rob says six-foot grade stakes, two car widths away from the road.

### **Winterfest:**

Sharon gave an update about this event, to be held in partnership with Chocorua Lake Conservancy, on 2/10/24 at The Preserve in Chocorua. Lots of volunteer help is needed. The program for the day will include outdoor activities in the afternoon, with the event moving into the barn at dusk.

The bar will open at 5 PM, with a dinner featuring soups, salads, and bread to start at 5:45.

The February Second Saturday Dance will be held at The Preserve as part of Winterfest. Admission to the dance is either included in Winterfest admission, or paid at the door for dance-only attendees. Teresa will do “the door” for this dance.

There was a motion to budget \$900 for Winterfest expenses, with this amount to be taken out of TOC’s share of the event proceeds. This motion passed.

### **Honorary Citizenship:**

Amy has received the green light from the Select Board to present an Honorary Citizenship to Dudley Laufman at this year’s New Year’s Eve dance. She will draft a proclamation, with artwork by Katy Thompson, to be signed by the Select Board. Here is the text of her proposal:

*This New Year's Eve, as we greet 2024, Dudley Laufman will travel to Tamworth from his home in Canterbury to call the dance at the Tamworth Town House. This is a trip he has done countless times over the decades and his affinity for Tamworth goes back to the mid-1960s when Helen Steele originally invited him to come call a dance here. Now in his early 90s (92, I think), Dudley continues to put Tamworth dances high on his list of places to call. As a caller and musician, he has received awards and accolades at the local, state, and national level. His dedication to traditional music and dance is legendary throughout the country. He could go anywhere, and yet he is absolutely devoted to Tamworth and our traditions here, where, since 1937, the Tamworth Outing Club has proudly hosted the second longest running dance series in the state of New Hampshire. Only the town of Nelson has us beat.*

*In recognition of Dudley's long-standing dedication to our Tamworth dances and the robust infusion of enthusiasm and talent that he has shared with so many dancers and musicians in our community over the years, I propose that the Tamworth Select Board recognize him with a proclamation of honorary citizenship in our town. Although this holds the town to no obligation in terms of legal rights of town citizens, it would be very meaningful to Dudley and a wonderful way to recognize someone who has contributed so much to Tamworth and our cultural heritage.*

### **Appeal Letter:**

Wyatt will write the letter and submit it to Minuteman Press for printing and mailing. This will be done before Christmas.

### **Other Business:**

Dylan will be putting together an agreement to be signed between TOC and USFS. This will allow TOC to maintain and groom an additional mile for trail for winter recreational use. She will do a new map, which will include this trail expansion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier

Next TOC meeting is on Monday, December 18, 6:45  
Cook Memorial Library.