

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, November 25, 2024

Present: Mark Fournier, Sharon Morrison, Pam Hayden, Teresa Fournier, Wyatt Berrier, Dylan Alden, Rob Farnum, Amy Berrier, Kit Morgan, Suzanne Balomenos Morgan, & Marsha Colcord.

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 PM

Secretary's Report

Minutes from October were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Wyatt reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which was then approved.

Christmas Tree

Ned Beecher and Chris Clyne donated a beautiful tree, which was cut and erected at the Veterans' Triangle by a TOC-&Friends Crew yesterday. The lights are on and ready for the tree lighting on Sunday, December 1 @ 5 PM. TOC is providing the fire pit and wood on Sunday. Hopefully, merrymaking revelers will gather shortly before 5 to witness the tree lighting and welcome in the holiday season with festive cheer and carol singing.

There was discussion about trees in future years. Ned and Chris have plenty of trees for us. Paul King also has trees he would like to donate.

Junior Race Team

Teresa has been contacted by Brett School Principal Kara Robdau and SAU 13 Superintendent Michael Whaland regarding the Junior Race Team program. Teresa is counting on Kathi Brown to help clarify this for TOC. Kathi will be working at the school to fill in and can explain the program. She will report back to TOC.

The basic arrangement for the program is that participating students pay a fee, the Brett School pays for the coach and transportation, and TOC pays the fees for race meets.

Ski Program

Teresa gave an update:

- So far approximately 65 students are enrolled in the 2025 ski program
- The Tamworth program will be six weeks long
- TOC will pay for all rentals and for 7th and 8th grade ski tickets. 1st – 6th grade student lift tickets are covered by ESSC
- The ESSC student-to-teacher ratio is 5:1

The trailer:

- Rob has found a trailer for \$200. He will own the trailer.
- Teresa will ask Kitty to find a parent to haul the trailer each Friday.
- Amy will contact John Gotjen to see if he still has the rack for hauling skis in the trailer.

Website

The new TOC website has launched at tamworthoutingclub.org! Board members browsed the new site on laptops and phones, working through final edits that Amy will bring to Rich Collins. Once these changes are made, Amy will notify the board. Amy suggested that we could add historical sections about Baseball and Chocorua Lake Sled Dog Races if anyone is interested in putting something together.

Winter Fest

Sharon reported that a planning meeting has been held with the core group. The next meeting for all interested volunteers will be on Thursday, December 5 at 4 at The Preserve. Dylan is heading up the silent auction, which will feature “Experiences” and Framed Art. If you have an experience to offer, please let Dylan know. Sharon is coordinating sourcing food for the evening. She will be contacting the Farmstand to see if they are interested. Other Winter Fest topics discussed were the sledding hill and the possibility of a packed X/C ski trail, which Mark would be willing to groom with his snowmobile.

Sled Dog Fun Day

The board agreed that Sunday, February 16 is the date. Marsha will confirm this with North Country Mushers.

Decals

The decals for the Snack Trailer and Groomer have been ordered from Minuteman Press.

Town-wide Mailer

There was discussion about sending out a colorful postcard to all mail recipients in Tamworth. This would feature our new logo, the mission statement, and a QR code to take people to the TOC website. This would be a “soft appeal” telling people who we are, followed by our traditional “begging letter” in the spring if the board agrees to do that.

Halloween 2025

Rob brought up several items to consider for next year’s Halloween. He suggested (and the board agreed) that having a porta potty at the east end of town would be very helpful. Also, having the TOC trailer, equipped with an AED and first aid supplies is important. Marsha will look into what equipment would be appropriate for TOC to purchase. Rob also thinks that inviting the Tamworth Rescue to station their truck in a central location would be an additional element of public safety at this popular event.

New Year’s Day Snack Trailer

Wyatt is hosting a “Mega Bonfire” on his property on New Year’s Day. He asked if TOC would be interested in operating the Snack Trailer at this event. The board declined this offer.

Other Business

Teresa shared info about a TCNA project. They are spearheading construction of an “All Persons’ Trail” and have, to-date, raised half of the \$200,000 cost. This assessable trail will be located off of Scott Road in Chocorua, with a quarter mile of boardwalks and gravel trail. TCNA is seeking additional grants for this project and is requesting a letter of support from TOC. Wyatt will write this letter by mid-December.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33

Next meeting: Monday, December 30, 6:45 PM, Cook Library

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier, TOC secretary