

## **Tamworth Outing Club minutes, March 31, 2025**

**Present:** Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Wyatt Berrier, Amy Berrier, Marsha Colcord, Pam Hayden, Sharon Morrison, Kit Morgan, Suzanne Balomenos Morgan, Humberto Apparicio, & Barb Bloomberg.

Also present was guest Jeremy Phillips, Tamworth's Recreation Director

The meeting was held at Wyatt's house and included a delicious potluck dinner. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM

### **Treasurer's Report**

Wyatt reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Amy asked how many children were in the Race Team. There were two who participated, in part due to administrative confusion at the school and a delayed start to the program. \$740 is the flat fee for the program, no matter the number of participants.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **Secretary's Report**

Wyatt reviewed the minutes from February, which were then approved.

### **Ordination Rock 5K**

Sharon gave updates for our July 4<sup>th</sup> road race event:

- Sharon is the race director
- Amy is doing volunteer coordinating
- Kerryn Hullstrung is soliciting prizes for the raffle
- Humberto will work on marketing and publicity
- There will be a new bandana printed in a different color than last year's Pink. Same design as last year, with the addition of our logo. *Note: after this meeting, Forest Green was chosen as this year's bandana color.*

The Race Committee met separately before the main TOC meeting and will continue to do so as they plan and coordinate the race. Stay tuned for more details!

*Important note:* TOC does not have access to the inside of the Brett School this year, so we will be renting a porta potty. The question of how to get power for starting line equipment and announcing is still unresolved.

## **How can TOC coordinate with / assist Tamworth Rec Department?**

Tamworth Rec Director, Jeremy Phillips, was a guest at this TOC meeting. The main question is how/if TOC can collaborate with TRD and/or assist with funding. TOC currently has money in a memorial fund, which is earmarked for baseball. The board asked Jeremy if funding is needed for equipment. He gave an example of soccer nets which are not in good condition and may need to be replaced.

Jeremy gave an overview of some of his ideas for TRD programs. He said he has both short- and long-term goals, including:

- Groomed public-access ski trails at the Durrell Road Rec Fields
- Rebuilding the ice skating rink at the Rec Field
- Softball
- Biking (possibly teaming up with Bearcamp Bikes)
- Walking and hiking programs
- Fishing Derby
- Soccer (most popular program for kids)
- Pickleball (hugely popular with adults of all abilities)
- Providing athletic equipment for various sports

There was extensive discussion around the table about the above list.

When asked about baseball, Jeremy said that Cal Ripken programs have largely taken the place of TRD programs and that there is diminishing interest in baseball overall. TOC said that it would provide Cal Ripken scholarships if there are families who cannot pay the fees. Jeremy will check in with Jim Hidden, who has run baseball programs in Tamworth over the years. Suzanne questioned if girls are welcome on Cal Ripken teams and said she did not think TOC should support baseball if it excludes girls.

Discussion about groomed ski trails: Jeremy has considered getting a Snow Dog to groom a basic trail around the Rec Field and on neighboring conservation land. He said that this property almost connects to the Mill Brook trail network. Several board members pointed out that TOC owns a snowmobile, currently stored in Wonalancet. Wyatt wondered whether a snowmobile could be stored on his property, which is directly to the East of the Rec Field trails, with access via Hall Road. Wyatt will talk to Rob about the TOC snowmobile.

Budget: Jeremy explained that TRD cannot accept donations directly, as these funds would go to the Town and go into the General Fund. TOC is in a position to A) accept monetary donations, as we are a non-profit and B) contribute equipment or services to TRD. This discussion about future collaboration will

continue. TOC recommended that Jeremy submit requests with specific needs as they arise and seem suitable for TOC involvement.

Promotions: TRD puts program info out on the Tamworth Exchange, via the Brett School, on the Town website, and on Facebook.

The board thanked Jeremy for coming. He stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

### **What Should We Do With Our Money???**

This discussion was tabled until our April meeting.

### **Adopt-a-Highway**

This will take place on Saturday, April 26. Meet at Rutabaga parking lot at 7:30 AM to get bags and establish pickup routes. Dylan will get bags from DOT (please confirm).

### **TOC Stickers**

Wyatt proposes that we give, not sell, the new TOC stickers. This is a goodwill gesture and gets our image out there to the public. The board agreed.

### **Sled Dog Fun Day**

There was a heartfelt discussion about the viability of this event. Much appreciation was given to Marsha and to Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club (OVSC) for all the work put in on trails and into attempting to host a race.

Mark is the new Trail Master for OVSC. He has taken over from George Kay.

Marsha explained that there are ever-evolving issues – aside from the weather – which make the current course tricky: there is stubble in the Whiteface field section which, during periods of limited snow cover, can be hazardous for dogs. A new home and associated driveway on/near Trask Hill Road means that a section of the trail is now plowed to dirt and not easily passible by dog teams.

Marsha said that a two-day event would be popular with mushers in the future. Her choices, in order of preference, would be: 1) Saturday one-day event, 2) Saturday/Sunday two-day event, 3) Sunday one-day event. If the event was held on Saturday, there would be a later start so mushers could arrive that morning. Someone brought up the possibility that if a Saturday had to be scratched due to bad weather, races could be move to Sunday.

Wyatt and others agreed that, if the event is cancelled, there should not be a reschedule. This is confusing and stressful for all involved. Pick one day and hope for the best!

Amy suggested that more advance planning be done, similar to what Sharon has done with the 5K race. She will meet with Sharon to review how this can best be done.

### **Other Business**

Amy reviewed dance hosts. She has people lined up through September.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28

Next meeting: April 28, 6:45 PM, Cook Library

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier, TOC secretary