

St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Board Meeting
St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District Office

DRAFT Minutes for November 16, 2010

Present: Dawn Howard, Warren Irwin, Stan Hewlett, David Irish, Thomas Grow, Art Wilson, Danny Collins, Aaron Earl, Spencer Thew, Erik Backlund, David Butler, Roger Bennett, Wm Swafford, Alex MacKinnon, Judy Wendt, and Tom Ortmeier.

Guests: Ed Francis, Pat Whalen, and Mark Martin.

Excused: Walt Paul, Kermit Blanchard, RB Lawrence, and Deb Christy.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett.
2. Quorum present.
3. Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Art Wilson and seconded by Wm Swafford. All were in favor.
4. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett. No report. Judy Wendt suggested Tom Grow consider staying on the Trails Board after his term as County Legislator ends.
 - b. Board of Legislators – Tom Grow and Alex MacKinnon.
 - Alex MacKinnon reported that the County budget is pretty well settled.
 - The IDA approved snowmobiles on the railroad at Newton Falls as long as there is insurance coverage. Art Wilson mentioned a washout that needs fixing.
 - The County has not taken over ownership of Benson Mines yet. There was discussion regarding the pollutants on site.
 - Judy Wendt asked about the Trail Coordinator position. Alex MacKinnon thinks that once the new Board of Legislators is seated and the economy improves, this may be brought up again. The Chamber of Commerce is interested in housing this position. The IDA is also expanding its horizons.
 - Tom Grow had nothing further to report. On behalf of the Trails Board, Roger Bennett thanked him for his service.
 - c. Oversight – Tom Ortmeier and Kermit Blanchard. Tom Ortmeier has not touched base with Bill Dashnaw, but said everything is still moving forward. A question was asked about the status of the Adopt A Natural Resource policy. Dawn Howard reported that it is still in the hands of the County Attorney.
 - d. Finance and Insurance – Dawn Howard. No report
 - e. Grant Search – Judy Wendt. Judy Wendt is looking over a grant application from NYS Parks and Recreation. It may not recognize ATVs.
 - f. Enforcement, Safety, and Education – Judy Wendt. Judy Wendt has nothing new to report and does not expect too much until spring.

- g. SEQR – Alex MacKinnon and Erik Backlund. Erik Backlund reported that they are waiting on the generic GEIS.

5. Unfinished Business.

- a. Roger Bennett requested that we be prepared to discuss the committee descriptions for the By-laws at the next meeting. Judy Wendt has started her revision, but has not finished. Roger Bennett reported that we will update and revise the By-laws in January. Judy Wendt will send revisions to him prior to the next meeting. This issue has been unresolved since last January.
- b. Eric Backlund reported that the new subcommittee re trail use by off road motorcycles had not met, but that our trail speed limit was so low that use may be excluded by default. Judy Wendt expressed concern over noise in residential areas and that the sight distance may be dangerous. She again suggested we provide a “play” area to keep this use off woods trails, or we could have an enforcement problem. Art Wilson reported that the ATV Association had passed a resolution to not allow dirt bikes.

6. New Business.

- a. Alex MacKinnon reported on a new lawsuit in Lewis Co. The judge is looking at the trail turning on more than one road and how far it goes on a road.
- b. Danny Collins had a gentleman (Mr. Amo?) ask for help with access to Mt. Matumbla in Piercefield. The NYS Easement land is owned by TimberVest. Snowmobiling is allowed, but not hunting or ATV use. There is a trail from Tupper Lake north of the river that dead ends. There was a boot leg to Dumas across the Forest Preserve and over the ice, but the DEC stopped (Travel over water is not allowed.) They would like to create a loop to groom. The group asked that the gentleman provide more information.
- c. Alex MacKinnon reported that we now have a NYS Senator, Pattie Ritchie, living in St. Lawrence County.
- d. Danny Collins reported that Jim McCully is moving forward with removal of the rails. Alex MacKinnon said that Walt Paul had put together a resolution that went to the Board of Legislators last month encouraging this. Dawn Howard researched the minutes for who was going to do the letter re the Thendara to North Elba (Lake Placid) line and did not find anything. The group said Walt Paul was going to do a letter in support of Rails to Trails. Judy will get something to Alex MacKinnon. The DOT owns the line.
- e. Dawn Howard passed around information on a St. Lawrence County surplus items bid sale. There is bridge materials listed.
- f. Dawn Howard reported that Walt Paul had brought up discussion on ATVs at a Region 6 NYS DEC Fish and Wildlife Management Board meeting and two resolutions in favor had been passed.
- g. Judy Wendt asked for letters of support for the activities of the ADK Local Government Review Board. It was thought that the BOL should do this. Laura Perry is the current BOL representative to this group. Alex MacKinnon said it will be someone new after the first of the year. Judy Wendt will forward the information to Alex Mackinnon before the Dec 6

BOL meeting. Art Wilson made a motion for St. Lawrence Co. to do a letter of support and Warren Irwin seconded. All were in favor.

- h. Judy Wendt reported that the DEC Commissioner was removed. The new Governor will appoint a new Commissioner. There is someone acting now. This was all over job cuts. Pat Whalen reported that they lost 3 employees in Potsdam – 2 from Operations and 1 secretary. There was 10 total in Region 6.
- i. Dave Butler reported that 2 weeks ago the mountain bikers had a trail work weekend off the Lenny Rd in Colton. Dave Butler also introduced his guest Mark Martin. Mark Martin was with the US Forest Service. He worked with land use/ recreational trails and is very interested in joining the Board.
- j. Alex MacKinnon asked about trail trash tipping fees. He would like to exempt certain agencies.
- k. Alex MacKinnon made a motion to reappoint seven members. Dave Irish seconded. All were in favor. Members include: William Lutz, Aaron Earl, Judy Wendt, Kermit Blanchard, RB Lawrence, Spencer Thew, and William Dashnaw.
- l. Dave Butler made a motion to appoint Mark Martin as a new member. Dave Irish seconded and all were in favor.

7. Announcements. None

8. Next Meeting is 12/21/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.

9. Hearings and Comments. None

10. Warren Irwin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Swafford. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard