

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

DRAFT Minutes for February 15, 2011

Present: Dawn Howard, David Irish, Art Wilson, Danny Collins, Roger Bennett, Wm Swafford, Walt Paul, Kermit Blanchard, Warren Irwin, Erik Backlund, Bill Lutz, Scott Sutherland, Judy Wendt, and Dave Butler.

Guests: Ed Francis, Pat Whalen, Charles Schloer, Schyler Shea, Christopher Collins, Lucy Lucas, Jim Akins, Mark Martin, Jim McCulley, and Ed Long.

Excused: Bill Dashnaw, Tony Arquiatt, Stanley Hewlett, RB Lawrence, Alex MacKinnon, Tom Ortmeyer, and Spencer Thew.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett.
2. Quorum present.
3. Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Bill Lutz and seconded by Art Wilson. All were in favor.
4. Guest speaker Jim McCulley was introduced. He spoke on how he felt a trail system on the rail lines was better than the railroad itself. He then talked about roads in the ADK Park and the 8 year battle he has waged with the DEC over the Lake Placid to Keene Rd. He stated that the DEC cannot arbitrarily post roads closed and that a judge had ruled in his favor. He will send a copy of case law to the Board.
5. Invited guest speaker Rhonda Thompson did not attend.
6. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett.
 - Tony Arquiatt reported to Roger Bennett that Tom Grow is still in the hospital in Plattsburg. He now has a trachea tube for breathing. Will be going to rehab next.
 - Tony Arquiatt also reported to Roger Bennett that there will be an Economic Enhancement Advisory Board meeting 2/23 at 6:00 pm in the BOL chamber. Tony Arquiatt would like a speaker from our Board to attend. Art Wilson, Judy Wendt, and Warren Irwin volunteered. Danny Collins will contact Deb Christy. Dawn Howard has been approached about a new Natural Resources Committee also. Tony Arquiatt is moving legislation forward.
 - b. Board of Legislators – Alex MacKinnon, Scott Sutherland, and Tony Arquiatt.
 - Scott Sutherland reported that there is a BOL meeting on 2/22. He will also try to make the trail presentation at the Town of Pierrepont meeting that same night.
 - Scott Sutherland said there is no new news on the Trail Coordinator position. This may be presented later in the spring.
 - c. Oversight – Tom Ortmeyer and Kermit Blanchard. Kermit Blanchard reported on a committee meeting held 2/9.
 - By-law changes were made that will be discussed later in the meeting.

- Equipment needs were discussed. Copies of Bill Dashnaw's list were made and passed out to the group. Judy Wendt has some additions for the list including sound decibel meters that she will bring next month. Dave Irish would like to add a chipper or stump grinder. Walt Paul suggested reviewing the list with the DEC.
 - Judy Wendt said we need to follow up with the IDA on the Newton Falls rail road. Kermit Blanchard, Bill Dashnaw, Bill Lutz, and Danny Collins attended the meeting in Tupper Lake on rail banking. Judy Wendt said that because user groups do maintenance, some of the numbers on monies to gain may be off.
- d. Finance and Insurance – Dawn Howard. No finance report. Still needs time sheets for volunteer efforts i.e. Danny Collins' crew and committee meetings i.e. Oversight. Will tally up what we have accumulated in the last year and forward to Bill Dashnaw as soon as possible. In the last three days she has been working with the County Attorney on the Adopt a Natural Resource Policy and insurance. Discussion has been on who will own the trail and user fees. Dawn Howard has requested more info from Lewis Co who owns their trail and from Jefferson Co. where the ATV Assoc owns the trail. Judy Wendt feels strongly that all users should pay. There was also a concern that the Snowmobile Assoc may lose funds if a trail use fee is levied.
- e. Grant Search – Judy Wendt. The St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency has been talking to Judy Wendt. There is a RFP due next week.
- f. Enforcement, Safety, and Education – Judy Wendt.
- Roger Bennett reported that Deb Christy is working on a letter that will list questions.
 - Judy Wendt reported there will be a meeting with the agencies in the spring and another meeting with the public will also be held. Sheriff Kevin Wells has offered the conference room at the new jail as a place for the meetings.
 - Judy Wendt reported that there have been no complaints on the pilot trail, but there are still kids riding.
- g. SEQR – Alex MacKinnon and Erik Backlund. Erik Backlund reported that they are still waiting.

7. Unfinished Business.

- a. Roger Bennett went over the By-laws. It was also reported that Aaron Earl has resigned from the Board. By-law changes were made. Judy Wendt suggested trail maintenance be separated from the Trail Oversight Committee eventually. We will need a motion at next month's meeting to accept these as amended. Roger Bennett will send everyone a revised copy before that date.
- b. Dawn Howard discussed the pilot trail map. Clarification on Parishville was received. Bill Dashnaw ordered 200 copies - 100 for the ATV Association and 100 for the Massena Sportsmen's Expo. Judy Wendt would like money for bigger and better maps. Dawn Howard suggested this be done later in the season when additional pieces of the trail are opened.
- c. Dawn Howard was able to speak with Ray Fountain over at the IDA. He asked to be added to our list as the IDA contact at this time.

- d. Dawn Howard reminded everyone to document their time both for meetings and work days and to turn it into her.

8. New Business.

- a. Roger Bennett reviewed the committee list. Changes were made and Mark Martin was added as he is now an official member of the Board since the BOL meeting yesterday. Art Wilson introduced Schyler Shea as a potential new member. He was asked to submit his bio to Dawn Howard.
- b. Dave Butler reported that the St. Lawrence Mountain Biking Association (SLMBA) is now officially incorporated. He introduced Jim Akins who is also a member. They will work on a trail map and have a web site already. They will work with SLC on maintenance.
- c. Judy Wendt commented on the issue of dirt bikes on the trail as reported in the last minutes. The ATV Association does not recommend because the speed limit is too low, noise levels are higher, and there is more wear and tear on the trail. Art Wilson said ATVers don't want to throw up a red flag. They do like an all inclusive trail if possible.
- d. Dawn Howard reported that there will be a Safe Chainsaw Operation Workshop Friday, March 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Cooperative Extension Learning Farm, 2043 SH 68, Canton. Cost is \$10. She may be contacted for more information or to register.
- e. Dawn Howard reported that in addition to new member Mark Martin being appointed this week, members Kermit Blanchard, Bill Lutz, Spencer Thew, and Judy Wendt were reappointed. Terms expire 12/31/13.
- f. Roger Bennett reported that our Board had been invited to share a booth with Brookfield Renewable Power Inc. at the 2011 Adirondack Sports & Fitness Expo April 16 and 17 in Saratoga Springs. We need to RSVP by February 28 if we are interested. Roger asked if the group had any info they wanted to hand out at this time. No one had anything.
- g. Judy Wendt reported that there will be a presentation to the Town of Pierrepont next Tuesday 2/22 on the trail. Any supporters are welcome to attend.
- h. Walt Paul asked if we had received any response to our letter to the DEC yet. Pat Whalen said the DEC got the letter, but had not responded yet.

9. Announcements. Roger Bennett asked that introductions be made around the room.

10. Next Meeting is 3/15/11 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office. **NOTE: Location has been changed since then to the SLC Public Safety Complex.**

11. Hearings and Comments. None.

12. Erik Backlund made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Irish. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard