

St. Lawrence County Public and Private Lands Recreational Advisory Board Meeting  
St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District Office  
7:00 PM

DRAFT Minutes for May 19, 2009

Present: Dawn Howard, Warren Irwin, Kermit Blanchard, Dave Irish, Bob Dowman, Stan Hewlett, Roger Bennett, Bill Dashnaw, Tom Grow, Aaron Earl, Walt Paul, Judy Wendt, RB Lawrence, Tom Ortmeyer, Alex MacKinnon, Deb Christy, Spencer Thew.

Guests: Ed Long, Mary Long, Byron Meashaw, Art Wilson, Robert Irish, Reggie Ellis, Jr.

Excused: Bill Lutz, Ron Bertram, Steve Papson.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett at the SWCD office.
2. Quorum present. (17)
3. A change was made in the April draft minutes to say a quorum of 12 was present (not 14). Bob Dowman made a motion to accept the minutes. Walt Paul seconded, and all were in favor.
4. Hearings and Comments.
5. Acceptance of Order of Business. Items for Old Business. Items for New Business.
6. Reports of Committees:
  - a. Executive - Roger Bennett. Roger Bennett read a letter of resignation from Legislator Laura Perry. Brian Bullock, Francis Sharpstene, and Marshall Weeks have missed 4 meetings and per the By-laws can be dismissed. It was discovered that Sharpstene was never officially appointed. A motion was made by Dave Irish and seconded by Kermit Blanchard to send the others a letter. All were in favor.
  - b. Trail Oversight, GEIS, Mapping – Kermit Blanchard and Tom Ortmeyer. Tom Ortmeyer deferred to Bill Dashnaw and Walt Paul. They met with the DEC (Judy Drabicki, Pat Whalen, Ken Kogut, the new easement specialist, plus one additional DEC staff re the trail. The DEC has no easement on the Beeham property so it has no jurisdiction. Long Pond Easement was discussed. The vehicle and traffic law doesn't allow for opening of the Tooley Pond Road because there is Forest Preserve on both sides of the road. A 100 foot buffer is needed. Problem areas: 1). The Cayey Rd to Stark is a problem because of private lands. Newton Falls RR is an option. 2). There is an issue in the Town of Fine between Pitcairn and the Cracker Box Rd. 3). Tooley Pond Rd. We need to find trails off the roads. We can buy easements. We will have insurance. The next step is to get help with these three problem areas. Kermit is checking Tooley Pond area. Walt will work on Cayey Rd. and Alex will work on the Cracker Box Rd. We also need a play area for mud.
  - c. Finance – Dawn Howard. No report.
  - d. Education & Enforcement – Bob Dowman. No report.

- e. Board of Legislators – Alex MacKinnon. Budget time is coming – think trail coordinator. The Ethics Law becomes law on 6/1. The disclosure form should not be too onerous. The chairman may be the only member that needs to fill this out. Tom Grow talked about the public.
- f. Grant Committee - Judy Wendt not present. No report.
- g. Coordinator Committee – Deb Christy. Deb Christy reported that only 2 counties have full time paid trail coordinators. 3 have recreation departments and 2 have paid snowmobile coordinators. Lewis Co. has already sold 900 trail permits at \$40. each. Lewis Co. is working with Oswego Co. which is ready to hire a coordinator. They will show SLC. A person in this position will need a close working relationship with county departments. The SWCD is an outside agency. A civil service exam will be a requirement, as well as people skills. A trail will eventually link Oswego, Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Clinton Co. to VT. Essex and Hamilton Co. are tough with the ADK Park. A power point presentation needs to be developed for the BOL. The average salary is \$35,00 to \$40,000. Alex MacKinnon said a presentation to create this position could be made at the Finance Committee on July 27. 2010 budget deliberations start in August. The mechanics need to be taken care of first. We should meet with the Cty Personnel Director, look at Civil Service, develop a budget, and put together the presentation and a resolution by June 16. The group agreed. Alex would like to see the position with IDA. A discussion was held on Civil Service and the skills needed.
- h. Evaluation Committee – Alex MacKinnon. A handout was developed and passed out that had questions re the 6 impact areas. The survey will be distributed by personal contact. Bob Dowman suggested the kiosk register be utilized. Judy Wendt reminded the group that the trail needs to be driven this spring.

## 7. Old Business.

- a. Adopt a Trail - Dawn Howard. A meeting has been set with the County Attorney and the County Administrator for May 27.
- b. Time Sheets. Dawn Howard reported that Judy Wendt still has one from last fall. This is a reminder to everyone to keep track of your time. Bill Dashnaw reminded everyone not to buy anything.
- c. Parishville Road Signs – Per Bill Dashnaw, the Town has expenses not reimbursed for yet. We need to sign the roads in the pilot system. Bill Dashnaw will work with the Town. The issue of signs on roads that are not part of the system was discussed. Bill Dashnaw suggested if we need to expend the grant money, that trail groomers or land could be purchased.
- d. Board name. Dawn Howard asked on the status of this. Tom Grow would like Dawn Howard to write a resolution for the BOL. Judy Wendt said she had an old one. Alex MacKinnon said this could be taken care of under suspension of the rules in July.

## 8. New Business.

- a. Roger Bennett reported that Bill Lutz was contacted by the ADK ATV club about attending their June 16 meeting.

9. Announcements.

- a. Warren Irwin announced chainsaw training. A workshop will be held June 6 at Rose Hill in Massena and also June 20 at the Cornell farm in Canton. Wayne Allen from the Ranger School will be teaching. Each session can hold 30 people.

10. Roger Bennett opened the floor for any guests to speak. Art Wilson discussed talking to Parishville about expenses.

11. Next Meeting is 6/16/09 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.

12. Motion to adjourn by Walt Paul, seconded by Tom Ortmeyer, and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard