

St. Lawrence County Public and Private Lands  
Recreational Advisory Board Meeting

Draft Minutes for April 15, 2008

**Present:** Dawn Howard, Roger Bennett, Tom Ortmeyer, Aaron Earl, Bob Dowman, Stephen Papson, David Irish, Alex MacKinnon, Warren Irwin, RB Lawrence, Judy Wendt, Spencer Thew, and Stanley Hewlett (13 present) **Excused:** Bill Lutz, Bill Dashnaw, Laura Perry, Tom Grow and Larry Denis.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett.

Bob Dowman moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Judy Wendt seconded and all were in favor.

Guests Bob Diehl and Insurance Representative are not present.

Dawn Howard received an e-mail from Brain Norton, St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency, who can't be here tonight. He has a \$25,000 grant regarding fees for recreational areas. Ideas are needed from the board in order to move forward. Judy Wendt moved to set up an Economic Development Committee. Alex MacKinnon seconded and all were in favor. Volunteers for the committee included Judy Wendt, Alex MacKinnon and RB Lawrence. There may be others.

Discussion on Rails to Trails Program by Judy Wendt. Under agreements, the rails would be left and if they are needed again, they have to be turned back to the railroad. Preserves right of way. SLC Industrial Development Agency owns railroad right of way for Newton Falls. The rail could be flooded with crushed stone. Bridges stay intact.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Committee** – No report.

**Trail Oversight** – Tom Ortmeyer now has big maps of trail areas in Parishville & East. There are three areas with problems: Area # 4, Sheldon Road (DEC or Town rd), and US Rt 11 between White Road and E Park. DEC recently shut down roads in Lewis, Jefferson and Oswego County. Judy Drabicki, DEC may consider segments from trail head to trail head. Pat Whalen, DEC will be here for June meeting. Talked about side trails.

Aaron Earl reported that he and the mapping committee are working on areas with problems. Ron Phelix from Franklin County ATVers attended the last meeting and left a published Trail Map.

Judy Wendt reported that there are outreach meetings being held on trail opportunities. None in the North Country at this point. The Oversight Committee plans to meet with Town Supervisors soon.

**Mapping** – No report

**Finance** –No report

**Education and Enforcement Committee** –No report

**BOL** – No report

Question on signs and where we stand at this point. Check email from Judy on insurance.

**Old Business:**

- Parishville – Several roads have been added. Town Highway designated an ATV area. Started process again. More information is needed on actual area. Law now says about 41 acres, but only need one to two acres of that defined. No need to go through Planning Board because SEQR was amended. Parishville town attorney works with other towns too. We now have a better idea of what is needed.
- Parcel #32 alternate routes. Tom Ortmeyer will email new version of the map.

**New Business:**

- Aaron Earl reported on the New York Forest Owners Association “Recreation on Private Lands” meeting that he attended. They talked about incentives for landowners to open up their land.
- Discussion on easements and taxes on NYS land.
- General Obligations Law – coverage for users other than ATV’s (who will be covered under a policy.) Snowmobilers have their own insurance.

**Announcements:**

NYS Snowmobile Fund cleaned out of over \$1 million by NYS Legislators.

Walt Paul is interested in joining the board.

Judy Wendt said that the Financial Committee needs to be looking for more funding. Check manufacturer grants, Yamaha, Polaris, etc.

Dave Irish had a question on signage, what and when.

Judy Wendt stated that maintenance agreements need to be done.

Dawn Howard needs to amend a draft Adopt a Trail policy done by Tom Ortmeyer and return to Roger to circulate. Check on Workmens Compensation or General Liability from County.

Judy Wendt will do up some sample agreements.

There is a new grant from Hamburger Helper, “Helping Hand from Stan.”

A letter to Legislators on a coordinator needs to be done. Remind Bob Diehl we would like a copy of a job description.

Next Board meeting was scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at SWCD.

Motion to adjourn by Stan Hewlett, Warren Irwin seconded and the motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard