

St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Board Meeting
St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District Office
7:00 PM

DRAFT Minutes for December 15, 2009

Present: Dawn Howard, Warren Irwin, Stan Hewlett, Roger Bennett, Bill Dashnaw, Walt Paul, Aaron Earl, R B Lawrence, Tom Ortmeyer, Art Wilson, Kermit Blanchard, Erik Bucklund, Alex MacKinnon, David Irish, and Thomas Grow.

Guests: David Butler, Ed Francis, Mary Long, Ed Long, Pat Whalen, and Louise Bixby.

Excused: Spencer Thew, Deb Christy, Robert Dowman, and Judy Wendt.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett at the SWCD office.
2. Quorum present. (15)
3. Warren Irwin made a motion to accept the minutes. Stan Hewlett seconded, and all were in favor.
4. No Hearings or Comments.
5. Acceptance of Order of Business. No items for Old Business or Items for New Business.
6. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive - Roger Bennett. Letter of resignation received from Ron Bertram.
 - b. Trail Oversight, GEIS, Mapping – Tom Ortmeyer. Group met today at 6:30 pm. Three problem areas have been identified: Pilot trail to Franklin Co., Rt. 56 to DEC Easement land, and Tooley Pond Rd. to the Lewis Co. line. The next step is a meeting with Pat Whalen at the DEC re the Easement land. The maps will go to the consultant in January. Kermit Blanchard suggested we pursue opening the Sylvan Falls Rd to connect the pilot trail to the Town of Hopkinton. Alex MacKinnon said a date will be chosen later tonight to go review.

Roger Bennett stopped the meeting to do introductions.

- c. Finance – Dawn Howard. No report.
- d. Education & Enforcement – Bob Dowman. No report.

- e. Board of Legislators – Alex MacKinnon and Tom Grow. Alex MacKinnon reported on the Trail Coordinator position.
 - 1. Create a Search Committee. Alex suggested this Board should select 3 members to work with 2 Legislators, the County Administrator, and staff. This group needs to establish criteria, review applications, interview, and select.
 - 2. There is money in the BOL contingency now. It needs to be decided where to house this position. Economic Development may go from County to IDA.
 - 3. Question on funds from NYS. There is a need to move forward anyway.

This comes down to two issues:

- 1. Appoint 3 at the January meeting. Decide on mix and process. Please contact Roger Bennett within the next month if you are interested in serving.
- 2. SLC financial position is precarious. Alex MacKinnon supports a sales tax increase. Real Property values have declined.

Bill Dashnaw will put together a process outline for the next meeting. Dawn Howard will contact the ATV and Snowmobile Association Presidents who are not here tonight re this new committee and have them call Roger Bennett if they need further information.

- f. Grant Committee - Judy Wendt. No report.
- g. Coordinator Committee – Deb Christy. No report.
- h. Evaluation Committee – Alex MacKinnon. We have Bob Dowman’s outline. Need student bodies to complete. Alex MacKinnon volunteered to visit some of the elected officials and to contact Bob Dowman re students.

7. Old Business.

- a. Bylaws – Roger Bennett. Judy Wendt was going to bring changes with her tonight. This included things such as allowing the Chairman and Vice chair tenure to be longer than the three years stated in Section VII. Art Wilson made a motion to remove this sentence regarding a maximum term and Walt Paul seconded. All were in favor.
- b. David Irish – At their Christmas Party, the Parishville ATV Club honored Tim Taillon for starting this whole process.

8. New Business.

- a. Nominating Committee. Roger Bennett appointed R.B .Lawrence and Bill Lutz. There were no additional volunteers. R. B. Lawrence said they will meet and forward a report to the Secretary to put with the January agenda.
 - b. Walt Paul reported there was going to be an Outdoor Lobby Day on January 6 in Albany.
9. Announcements.
- a. Roger Bennett reported that Assemblywoman Russell was holding a Community Forum on December 17 at 6:00 pm at SUNY Canton.
 - b. Art Wilson thanked Alex MacKinnon and Tom Grow for their efforts towards the Trail Coordinator position.
10. Next Meeting is 1/19/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.
11. Roger Bennett opened the floor for Public Comment.
- a. Ed Long asked that the group check the road by the sawmill to use for the trail. Bill Dashnaw questioned whether it was abandoned.
 - b. Louise Bixby talked about the Raquette River Blue Way Corridor. This is a 170 mile stretch from Blue Mountain Lake to the St. Lawrence River. It involves recreation, tourism, and access - a waterway trail. Intermunicipal agreements among communities along the river are being done. The group got funding to do a web site: www.raquetteriver.com The foundation draft plan is there. The group also got funding from the Dept of State Division of Coastal Resources. Alex MacKinnon suggested that the new trail coordinator could help this group and mentioned that our board currently has a vacancy. Walt Paul has also volunteered for that group. They will network with us.
12. Motion to adjourn at 8:09 PM. by Warren Irwin. Seconded by Walt Paul and all were in favor.

Minutes by Dawn Howard