

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

DRAFT Minutes for February 16, 2010

Present: Dawn Howard, Roger Bennett, Walt Paul, Tom Ortmeier, Art Wilson, Erik Backlund, David Irish, Deb Christy, Kermit Blanchard, Spencer Thew, and Judy Wendt.

Guests: Ed Francis, Danny Collins, Pat Whalen, Bill Swafford, Walt Smutz, Jr., and John Manson.

Excused: Stan Hewlett, Russell Lawrence, Wm. Lutz, Alex MacKinnon, Tom Grow, Warren Irwin, Bill Dashnaw, and Aaron Earl.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett at the SWCD office.
2. Quorum present. (30% per By-law) Butler's appointment that was sent to the BOL on 11/19 was misplaced, but has been resubmitted along with Wm. Sawford's.
3. Minutes were approved.
4. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett. Revisited committees and members. Add a Grant Search Comm. to the Bylaws. Education and Enforcement needs a new chair. Add Insurance to Finance. There will now be 4 committees total. All need to have new descriptions e-mailed to Roger Bennett.
 - Oversight – Tom Ortmeier and Kermit Blanchard
 - Financial and Insurance – Dawn Howard
 - Grant Search Committee – Judy Wendt will do
 - Enforcement, Safety, and Education - ?
 - b. Trail Oversight, GEIS, Mapping – Tom Ortmeier. The group met just prior to this meeting. The draft Procedures, Trail Oversight Committee document was reviewed. Two small changes were made. The point person needs to be kept informed and the point person will be the primary liaison with landowners also. A shortened version will be added to the By-laws. The committee presented the draft to the Board. Judy Wendt made a motion for its adoption. David Irish seconded and all were in favor.
 - c. Finance – Dawn Howard. Board and SWCD staff time was calculated at 1,265.25 hours and was forwarded to Bill Dashnaw. Time and minutes from April and June of 2007 are missing. Time sheets were resent to the Board. Bill Dashnaw has all info on grant status and Dawn Howard was unable to answer any questions.
 - d. Education & Enforcement - Vacant.
 1. Judy Wendt reported that she had spoken with 3 of our 4 enforcement agencies including DEC, NYS Police, SLC Sheriff (will contact Parks), about setting up a meeting.
 2. Deb Christy commented that she appreciates enforcement, but that she has been receiving landowner complaints regarding police hanging out on private property and not at roads and crossings. A committee meeting is needed. Kermit Blanchard

commended the Snowmobile Association on the good trail conditions. Spencer Thew suggested private properties be labeled.

3. Judy Wendt commented on the ATV crossing on CR58. There are signs there, but they are not acceptable. The signs show ATVs only and do not specifically say Crossing. Dawn Howard will relay this to Bill Dashnaw.
 4. Judy Wendt mentioned that she would like to see Trails volunteers for the gun show in West Potsdam. It was reported that the group won't get a table because there is a waiting list to get in. The Massena Sportsman Expo may be a better opportunity. It was decided it was probably best just to do press releases.
- e. Board of Legislators – No report. Alex MacKinnon was unable to attend tonight and Tom Grow has been ill.
 - f. Grant Committee - Judy Wendt. No report.
 - g. Coordinator Committee – Deb Christy. No report. This was a temporary committee.
 - h. Evaluation Committee – Alex MacKinnon. Judy Wendt reported that she has not finished tweaking the survey yet, but will e-mail to the group when done. This committee will be combined with the Enforcement Committee.

5. Old Business.

- a. Roger Bennett went through the Board list. Steve Papson never responded so was not reappointed. A motion was made and seconded to send a letter to Marshall Weekes re his attendance or resignation per the By-laws. All were in favor.
- b. Discussion was held on a SEQR Committee. It was decided to add this to the permanent Committee list in the By-laws. Judy Wendt will draft a description.
- c. Dawn Howard reported on the Adopt a Trail program. The new SWCD insurance policy will cover this. She needs to get her Board of Director's approval and then take it back to the new County Attorney.

6. New Business.

- a. Dawn Howard reported that a bio form for Board appointment had been received from Danny Collins. Art Wilson made a motion to forward this application to the BOL and Deb Christy seconded. All were in favor. This appointment would fill the Papson vacancy.
- b. Deb Christy reported on the status of the railroad bed from Newton Falls to Star Lake. She asked the committee to consider its use for a snowmobile trail. This is under IDA jurisdiction currently. Judy Wendt will write up a proposal for the next Board meeting to present to the IDA.
- c. Kermit Blanchard reported on the Parishville sections they are trying to open. He will take a map to the Oversight Committee.
- d. Dawn Howard brought up the proposed NYS Clean Sweep of the Snowmobile fund. Dave Irish made a motion and Kermit Blanchard seconded that we ask the BOL to write a letter re this situation. All were in favor.

7. No Announcements.

8. Next Meeting is 3/16/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.

9. Hearings and Comments

10. Motion by Judy Wendt and seconded by Walt Paul to adjourn. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard