

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

DRAFT Minutes for January 19, 2010

Present: Dawn Howard, Warren Irwin, Stan Hewlett, Walt Paul, Aaron Earl, R B Lawrence, Tom Ortmeyer, Art Wilson, Erik Backlund, Alex MacKinnon, David Irish, Bill Lutz, Deb Christy, Spencer Thew, and Judy Wendt.

Guests: David Butler, Ed Francis, Mary Long, Ed Long, Mike Morse, Danny Collins, Pat Whalen, and John Manson.

Excused: Bill Dashnaw, Roger Bennett, Tom Grow, and Kermit Blanchard.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Vice Chairman Alex MacKinnon at the SWCD office.
2. Quorum present. (15)
3. Secretary Dawn Howard requested a report from the nominating committee for the election of officers. Bill Lutz presented a slate with the current officer's names. There were no further nominations from the floor. Dave Irish moved and Warren Irwin seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for Roger Bennett as Chairman, Alex Mackinnon as Vice Chairman, and Dawn Howard as Secretary. All were in favor.
4. Warren Irwin made a motion to accept the minutes. Judy Wendt seconded, and all were in favor.
5. Reports of Committees:
  - a. Executive – Alex MacKinnon. The group will discuss the Search Committee for a Trail Coordinator later in the meeting. Dawn Howard reported that Roger Bennett was sorry he could not be in attendance and that he had accepted the nomination.
  - b. Trail Oversight, GEIS, Mapping – Tom Ortmeyer.
    1. Tom Ortmeyer and Kermit Blanchard are looking at opening roads in Parishville to link with the Town of Hopkinton and additional County Forest property. The Committee met at 6:15 tonight. They have two questions: Who does the SEQR? (Alex MacKinnon and the SEQR group.) Can roads be opened if there is already a way there? (Alex MacKinnon is of the opinion that a parcel can be accessed from more than 1 direction. Judy Wendt prefers a loop.) Hopefully a recommendation can be made at the next meeting.
    2. Discussion ensued re bridges and their condition. They may be safe for an ATV and snowmobile, but maybe not for a groomer.
    3. Tom Ortmeyer also reported that he, Deb Christy, and others were meeting with the DEC to work on the cross county system to get into Long Pond Easement and from Picketville into South Colton. Walt Paul said the trails line up, but don't connect on the easements. He sent in a public comment to that effect and thinks the Board also needs to send in a recommendation. Pat Whalen said there is a trail there, but not on paper. There will be access corridors in less than two years.

- c. Finance – Dawn Howard. Time reports with hours are needed for the Empire State Development grant. We are also lacking minutes from April and June of 2007, if anyone has them. Alex MacKinnon said we may need to buy equipment soon in order to utilize the funds. He will touch base with Bill Dashnaw to get the status. Walt Paul suggested that the group start an itemized list. Tom Ortmeier talked about meeting with Brookfield. Walt Paul will develop a proposal. Deb Christy reported that we don't know the distance that must be kept from the powerhouse at this time for security purposes. Dawn Howard needs to resend the time sheet.
- d. Education & Enforcement – Bob Dowman.
  - 1. Bob Dowman, the chair of this group has resigned so the committee is stalled. Judy Wendt will do a brochure for the towns on who to call. Also re DEC enforcement on the Trails. May need to call our enforcement people to sit down with us and then relay info to trail users.
  - 2. Judy Wendt reported on another opportunity. There is a gun show at the end of February in Potsdam. This Board should have a table to hand out info. We will need folks to man the operation. Good public relations. Judy Went will convene a committee meeting soon.
  - 3. Dave Irish asked about Bob Dowman's survey. Judy Wendt has redone and will send out. Parishville has had no negative comments.
- e. Board of Legislators – Alex MacKinnon.
  - 1. The sales tax revenue check that the county got on Nov 30th was expected to be for \$1.8+ million, but was only for \$800,000 +/- . We need to slow on filling the Trail Coordinator position. Judy Wendt is disappointed in the Coordinator situation, but understands and thanked Alex for all of his work.
  - 2. The question of where to house a Trail Coordinator position has not been answered. Probably will not be County govt. Could be an employee of IDA or Chamber of Commerce. Economic Development will probably become part of the IDA. IDA is Civil service and the Chamber is not. Deb Christy questioned putting the position at Soil and Water. She would like to discuss this further. Will schedule a committee meeting tonight.
  - 3. Alex MacKinnon reported Aaron Earl is working on changes to our local law to incorporate land use rules. Dawn Howard mentioned specifically timber cutting and fires. The Board can open some other parcels with the adoption of some rules. Judy Wendt asked about private firewood harvesting on county land. Dawn Howard reported that this has been looked at, but is a liability issue. Warren Irwin had a question on the County parcel that sits in the middle of Brasher State Forest.
- f. Grant Committee - Judy Wendt. Applying under next round of manufacturers' grants for clubs and SWCD. Stan Hewlett reported that Lewis Co. bought a tractor.
- g. Coordinator Committee – Deb Christy. It is important where the Coordinator position goes. Dave Irish asked if job qualification criteria have been set. Alex MacKinnon reported that yes, we are all set to go.
- h. Evaluation Committee – Alex MacKinnon. No report.

## 6. Old Business.

- a. Judy Wendt asked where we stood on a trail maintenance program. Dawn Howard reported on the insurance liability to the SWCD and that there is a new County Attorney. She will revisit this issue and report at the next meeting.
- b. Dawn Howard reported that there has been no appointment for David Butler and she will check on the status.

## 7. New Business.

- a. Dawn reported that a bio form for Board appointment had been received from Wm. Swafford to represent the Raquette River group. Dave Irish made a motion to forward this application and Warren Irwin seconded. All were in favor. Dawn Howard will update the membership list so we know what other vacancies we have. Erik Backlund reported that the owner of Wear On Earth is also interested.
- b. Judy Wendt made a motion that the Board appoint a person of authority since we have no Trail Coordinator. She suggested Walt Paul be the spokesperson. Alex MacKinnon reported a person may be reimbursed for mileage. Much discussion ensued re who was supposed to do what and re original committee structure. Judy Wendt rescinded the motion. Judy Wendt asked that at the next meeting the Board review the membership list to revisit who is on each committee and make new assignments. Dawn Howard will include the list with the minutes and agenda for February.
- c. Deb Christy reported that Bill Dashnaw is donating pressure treated boards for bridges, but that these had to go to the Town first to pass through to the SLC Snowmobile Assoc. Deb Christy reported that the Towns won't accept and wondered why the boards can't be donated directly.
- d. Deb Christy also reported that plowing back the sides of roads is also an issue. There are 11 miles of road on the Stark and White Hill Roads that are problematic. Deb Christy asked if Bill Dashnaw could possibly talk to the Town Highway Supervisors. Judy Wendt made a motion and Stan Hewlett seconded and all were in favor. A meeting will be set up for next Monday if Bill Dashnaw's schedule allows. Alex MacKinnon will talk to Bill Dashnaw and County Attorney Mike Crowe about this and the previous issue.
- e. Deb Christy reported that Spencer Thew would be on Barnhart Island Feb 6 & 7 for dog sled races. Lots of people are partnering to do this.
- f. Deb Christy reported that there is a meeting with the APA on Feb 2 at 7 pm in the Human Services Building re land classification.

## 8. No Announcements.

9. Next Meeting is 2/16/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.

## 10. Hearings and Comments

- a. Alex MacKinnon reported they are seeking candidates for the Board of Legislators.

b. Art Wilson talked about SLC ATV club members in the past putting money in a fund for insurance, but that NYS had backed out of the deal.

11. Motion to adjourn at 8:47 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard