

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

DRAFT Minutes for May 18, 2010

Present: Dawn Howard, Roger Bennett, Walt Paul, Deb Christy, Warren Irwin, Bill Dashnaw, Bill Swafford, Stan Hewlett, David Irish, David Butler, Thomas Grow, Erik Backlund, Judy Wendt, Art Wilson, and Danny Collins.

Guests: John Manson, Mary Long, Ed Long, and Ed Francis.

Excused: Russell Lawrence, Aaron Earl, Kermit Blanchard, Alex MacKinnon, and Tom Ortmeyer.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett at the SWCD office.
2. Quorum present.
3. Motion to approve the Minutes with one minor change was made by Judy Wendt and seconded by Art Wilson. All were in favor. The reference to Tom Grow in item number 3 was changed to Alex MacKinnon as Mr. Grow was not present at the meeting.
4. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett.
 1. Russell Lawrence will be unable to attend meetings for a short time. A motion was made by Art Wilson and seconded by David Irish to excuse him for 3 - 4 months. All were in favor.
 2. Walt Paul reported on the Raquette River Blueway Corridor work session that he attended in Tupper Lake. Roger Bennett and Bill Swafford also attended. An event is being planned for this summer. The next step is to get the Towns on board with Town Steering Committees. Visit the website for more info.
 3. Judy Wendt, Roger Bennett, and Dawn Howard traveled to Malone to give a presentation to the Franklin Co. Trails Board. Judy Wendt reported that they are not yet as organized as we are or as far along in the planning process. Suggestions to them include better meeting times and the involvement of more user group reps. They were very interested in the money our group has expended so far. They have quite a bit of land in the Adirondack Park. There are no county lands, but quite a few roads are already open.
 4. Roger Bennett has not heard anything more from the Norwood group on the proposed racetrack.
 - b. Board of Legislators – Tom Grow and Alex MacKinnon. No report.
 - c. Oversight – Tom Ortmeyer and Kermit Blanchard. No report.
 1. Dawn Howard asked if the proposal submitted last month by Judy Wendt was specific to the Pilot Trail extension. It was, so the County Forest parcel numbers will be sent to the County Attorney tomorrow. The Attorney has already received the Adopt A Trail info and a draft of a new local law governing use of County Forests.

- d. Finance and Insurance – Dawn Howard. Bill Dashnaw has been working on the grant requirements. Judy Wendt has two timesheets that need to be turned in to Dawn Howard so they can be included in the calculations. Dawn Howard thanked Judy Wendt for the informational piece that was prepared for Landowners.
- e. Grant Search – Judy Wendt. Sampson Pond Club is a new addition to the ATV Association. They are helping with a grant for equipment. The Yamaha grant has a June 30th deadline. Any suggestions for needs would be appreciated. Polaris is another grant opportunity.
- f. Enforcement, Safety, and Education – Judy Wendt. There will be a meeting the first part of July with the Enforcement folks. A Safety and Education Youth Safety Day is also in the works.
- g. SEQR – Erik Backlund. SEQR needs to be done on pilot trail extension. It is not all roads and includes some County Forests.

5. Unfinished Business.

- a. Walt Paul discussed a draft letter to Brookfield. Judy Wendt commented on the economics. The letter head was discussed. The SWCD developed one for the Trails Board with the SWCD address. It was decided Roger Bennett will sign the letter. Deb Christy made a motion to accept the letter as revised and Judy Wendt seconded. All were in favor.
- b. Roger Bennett reminded the Board that we need Committee descriptions to include in the By-Laws. Please bring these to the next meeting. Dawn Howard will fix the By-laws on the web site.
- c. Walt Paul brought up the crossing at Rainbow. He will draft a letter and meet with the Towns.
- d. Dawn Howard reported that Danny Collins was now an official member of the Board. Our three newest members had not yet picked a committee to serve on. Bill Swafford asked to serve on the SEQR, Dave Butler on the Oversight and Enforcement, and Danny Collins on the Oversight and SEQR. They will be added to the Board list and committee list.

6. New Business.

- a. Dave Irish reported that there will be a trail ride on Thursday, June 10 leaving from the Hideaway in Parishville and going to Little John.
- b. Walt Paul talked about the closing of the snowmobile artery last winter by the Raquette River. He looked at the guiding documents and thinks that this needs to be discussed. The current administration's interpretation vs. what's written, don't match.
- c. Deb Christy talked about the Raquette River Boreal area, our use of it (not) and a new road to the Jordan Club thru Lassiter. Bill Dashnaw explained road status:
 - 1. Abandonment = 2 kinds. Check the town resolutions to find the type.
 - i. True abandonment needs a Town Board resolution and the right of way is divided between landowners, but you can't land lock anyone. If it is state land it can never be true abandonment by law.

- ii. Qualified Abandoned means the right of way stays, but the Town does not maintain. It can be gated and locked, but access must be allowed to people who own property inside.
 - 2. Seasonal roads are different.
Talked about bridges i.e. Goldmine to Picketville. There may be options to trade.
 - d. Danny Collins
 - 1. The road behind the Backwoods Inn is through NYS land and is closed to ATVs. He has a letter requesting our assistance. Bill Dashnaw said to research the road ownership.
 - 2. There was a court case regarding the definition of a public highway on easement land and it is not public.
 - 3. The 17' x 22' Morgan Road bridge replacement was talked about. Brookfield may need to use for heavy equipment.
 - e. Dave Butler and Tom Ortmeyer went to a meeting in Speculator re bike tourism. They will be meeting again in the fall. A website will have maps.
 - f. Danny Collins talked about south of Rt. 3 and the Grass River Easement - the Conifer to Cranberry Grass River Railroad. He has a way to get into this that the DEC doesn't. Judy Wendt suggested a proposal be submitted to the Oversight Committee for this. It would not be a part of the grant.
 - g. Bill Dashnaw met with the DEC re maps. They are working on some issues. The consultant started the GEIS last week.
7. Announcements.
- a. Judy Wendt announced that the Parishville ATV Club will have a benefit ride on July 13th for our injured Marine Aaron Howell.
8. Next Meeting is 6/15/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.
9. Hearings and Comments.
- a. Mary Long thanked the Board for all they do.
10. Motion by Stan Hewlett and seconded by Bill Swafford to adjourn. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard