

St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Board Meeting
St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District Office

DRAFT Minutes for October 19, 2010

Present: Dawn Howard, Warren Irwin, Stan Hewlett, David Irish, Thomas Grow, Art Wilson, Danny Collins, Aaron Earl, Spencer Thew, Bill Dashnaw, Erik Backlund, David Butler, Kermit Blanchard, Roger Bennett, Bill Swafford, Deb Christy, and Russ Lawrence.

Guests: Ed Francis.

Excused: Tom Ortmeyer, Walt Paul, and Alex MacKinnon.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett.
2. Quorum present.
3. Motion to approve the Minutes as amended was made by Bill Swafford and seconded by Warren Irwin. All were in favor. Mary Long's first name was corrected to read Mary instead of Judy. One spelling/typo was corrected. Clarification was requested that the DEC skid steer is not available for use. It was brought up only as an example of a useful piece of equipment for trail work.
4. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Executive – Roger Bennett. No report.
 - b. Board of Legislators – Tom Grow and Alex MacKinnon. Tom Grow reported that the Board of Legislators has been working on the County budget.
 - c. Oversight – Tom Ortmeyer and Kermit Blanchard. Kermit Blanchard had nothing new to report.
 - d. Finance and Insurance – Dawn Howard. No report
 - e. Grant Search – Judy Wendt. Not present.
 - f. Enforcement, Safety, and Education – Judy Wendt. Not present.
 - g. SEQR – Alex MacKinnon and Erik Backlund. Erik Backlund reported that they are waiting on the generic GEIS.
5. Unfinished Business.
 - a. Roger Bennett requested that we be prepared to discuss the committee descriptions for the By-laws at the next meeting. He does not have Judy Wendt's info yet. This issue has been unresolved since last January.
 - b. Dave Butler reported that the chair of the new subcommittee re trail use by off road motorcycles was not here. Some work has been done, but the group is not ready to report yet. Bill Dashnaw did some checking. Most trails don't allow this use. The posted speed on

our trail is too slow (15 mph) to keep a bike up. He will forward info to the committee. Discussion ensued.

6. New Business.

- a. Dave Irish suggested that lots of work can be done before the SEQR to get a trail system mapped out. Some roads that meet qualifications could be identified. Bill Dashnaw suggested a new committee to do that. He is busy with the main corridor trail and will be tied up for six months to one year. Brasher could be dusted off and alternatives looked at. Roger Bennett suggested someone from that town do this. The Oversight Committee/subgroup can do some preliminary work.
- b. Deb Christy handed out the St. Lawrence Co. Snowmobile Association September 2010 Newsletter. It included pictures of the bridge work done this year.
- c. Warren Irwin had a question for Bill Dashnaw. The Town of Lawrence Highway Superintendent did some work on a culvert under the Rutland line railroad bed that washed out. It will be fixed again later. This is part of the official trail. Is this work reimbursable? Bill Dashnaw replied that it fit the criteria of in-kind service for the grant.
- d. Bill Dashnaw reported that the Highway Dept. did not get the Polaris grant. Dawn Howard reported that the Soil and Water Conservation District did not either.
- e. Bill Dashnaw said the Board needs to work on what we can use the grant for i.e. easements, equipment, building trails. Erik Backlund asked to see the trail map.
- f. Deb Christy reported that the Snowmobile Association got beaver removal permits for Picketville Road and Rock Pond. They will do some work there when it is drained, such as ditching.
- g. Roger Bennett said Walt Paul is still trying to work with Brookfield. There have been staff changes there.
- h. Deb Christy and the Snowmobile Association are going to the I.D.A. on October 26 to ask for use of the railroad bed this winter. It needs brushing and to have one small washout fixed.
- i. Danny Collins talked about the work planned on the Picketville Road and Morgan Rd. to Donner Hill (Gold Mine Rd.) Deb Christy is working with Clarkson University and the DEC on Rock Pond and Clear Pond bridges. Danny Collins will do in-kind worksheets. The work will be done approximately the second weekend in November. The group asked for an e-mail notice.
- j. Dave Irish asked Bill Dashnaw about Right of Ways. Bill Dashnaw reported that they are all different. Use is usually 3 rods or less than 50 feet. If built fee, it is 4 rods, but the courts have ruled that what you maintain is the R.O.W. There was a discussion on gates and keys and then Qualified vs. true abandonment. Bill Dashnaw said qualified abandonment is turned over to the county highway. There is a hearing and determination. It can later be abandoned unless it is a state forest area, or it can be opened again. True abandonment the Town does. If a road is stopped being maintained over many years, a court may determine it is abandoned. There was a discussion by Dave Irish and Bill Dashnaw on alternate routes

through one hunting camp. Bill Dashnaw suggested it be shown to him on the map and given to the Oversight Committee.

7. Announcements. None.

8. Next Meeting is 11/16/10 at 7:00 PM at the SWCD office.

9. Hearings and Comments. None

10. Warren Irwin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Swafford. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Minutes by Dawn Howard