

Birchwood Bobcat Riders Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 15, 2014

President Jeff Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 19 members present. The agenda, minutes, and financial reports were distributed.

Approval of the Agenda: **Gary Koel/ Jim Fischer. Motion carried.**

Approval of the minutes of the 12/18/13 meeting: **Bob Ellerbruch/Roger Beffa. Motion carried.**

Financial Reports: The reports were reviewed. The checking account balance on 1/15/14 is \$27,109.43.

Motion: Liz Drw/Bob Ellerbruch to accept the report. Motion carried.

Trails/Equipment - Mike Robotka reported:

- a meeting with Town of Birchwood Chairman Romaine Quinn was attended by Assistant Forest Administrator Mark Heil, Jeff Johnston and Mike Robotka. Meeting discussion included:
 - club signs posted on township signs. Mike reported most have been removed.
 - More personal contact is recommended with private property owners. Tim Lee has been assigned this task. Note was made that Tim Lee and Dick Engness are trail patrol ambassadors.
 - Romaine reported that the discussion continues with State personnel to open the Tuscobia Trail to ATV use from Angus to the county line
- Mike noted that Pat Retzlaff is the Sawyer County Recreation Officer; Washburn County does not employ an officer in this capacity.
- Spider Loop reroute is underway
- requested that volunteers ensure that shop garage doors are closed when leaving the building. He explained the temperature settings.
- 2 tires were ordered for the BR-160 groomer.
- Trail boss for the Sawyer County Alliance has notified Mike that equipment owned by the Alliance should not be operated when temperature is -15 degrees.
- Thanks to Art Ritter for a great job mounting the Ghost Trail signs
- Frost has raised the concrete apron by the back shop door, which presents problems for getting the equipment in and out. A jack hammer may need to be rented to remove the concrete.
- Thanks to all of the volunteers for helping to maintain the trails.

Membership - LaVonne Thompson reported 118 family and single members and 51 business members. Notices and membership forms are being mailed to members to remind them to renew their membership.

Map Boxes - Gary Koel, Janet McNinch and Liz Drew collected \$496 this week and restocked map boxes.

Web Site - No change.

Public Relations - Steve Bethke reported that:

- there will be two articles in the Birchwood News to include reports on the trail system and introducing our new logo. Pass any information for the newspaper to Steve.
- Steve shared a proposed notice to be displayed at local businesses stating the club's promotion for safety and respect when using the trails. In addition he would like to place the notice in the Birchwood News.

Motion: Steve Bethke/Bob Ellerbruch authorizing the purchase of a display ad in the Birchwood News in the amount of \$70.25. Motion carried. The notice will appear in the next issue of the paper.

Organization Development

- the property transfer document is recorded with the Sawyer County Register of Deeds, and a copy of the transfer was received
- the IRS 1024 application is pending
- Jeff Johnston plans to take care of the vehicle title transfers next week

Old Business

- **Raffle Tickets** - Everyone's help is needed to ensure successful sales.
- **YouthAmbassador** - Dorie Forward is coordinating the application process with the school.
- **DNR Snowmobile Safety Course** - volunteers are needed to help on Thursday evening, January 16th and Saturday morning, January 18th. Discussion was held with regard to safety course changes the DNR has implemented.

New Business

- **Social Event Report** - a day club ride on local trails was suggested. **Motion: Liz Drew/Bob Ellerbruch to have a club ride on Saturday, February 8. Motion carried.** Ride details will be communicated to members along with a request to RSVP.
- **Clothing Order** - Steve Bethke will order t-shirts and sweatshirts with the new logo. Cost to club members is \$8 and \$15 respectively. Colors selected were green, blue and gray for t-shirts and blue and gray for sweatshirts. A notice will be sent to club members to order merchandise by February 1st.
- **2013 Financial Audit** - Tim Lee, Roger Beffa and Rick Oswalt volunteered to complete the audit.
- **Washburn County Land Use Permits** - Rick Oswalt has worked on the project to identify landowners whose property the trail crosses. Trail users were asked to review and confirm this data.
- **2013-2014 work activity summary** for Washburn and Sawyer Counties was distributed for informational purposes only. Volunteers were recognized for their contributions to trail maintenance, especially Trail Captain Mike Robotka for his tremendous time commitment.

Other Business

- Bob Ellerbruch reported that new tracks are needed for the club's BR-160 groomer. Cost is estimated at \$12,000.
- It was suggested that consideration be given to purchasing a deck-over trailer in order to transport equipment to the shop for repair.
- Roger Roux requested the club's support for opening the roads in the Town of Cedar Lake to create ATV routes for town residents to access the trail system. Discussion was held regarding opportunities to proceed.

Correspondence

- LaVonne reported that she has communicated to Alliance Secretary Barb Deutsch two events planned for this year, those being the raffle drawing and the appreciation dinner.

Next meeting - Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m.

50/50 - Janet McNinch won the money!

Adjournment: Motion: Gary Koel/Bob Ellerbruch. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LaVonne Thompson, Secretary