

Birchwood Bobcat Riders Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2014

President Rick Oswald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 18 members present. The agenda and minutes were distributed.

Approval of the Agenda: **Dave Drew/Bob Ellerbruch. Motion carried.**

Approval of the minutes of the 8/20/14 meeting: **Bob Ellerbruch/Dave Drew. Motion carried.**

Financial Reports: In the absence of the treasurer, financial reports were not available. Maryhelen Drew reported that there is \$\$28,000+ in the checking account.

Trails/Equipment = Mike Robotka reported that:

- Sawyer County trails are closed due to storm damage
- All of the Alliance owned equipment is now back at the clubhouse
- Thank you to Jim Giedwedik for a great job keeping the grounds mowed
- Work day Monday to remove the tracks and frame from the old LMC
- The floor drain needs repair
- Release of Washburn County grant funds is delayed due to complications with the bidding process
- Trail maintenance work is underway in Washburn County

Membership - LaVonne reported 137 family and individual members and 53 business members.

Map Boxes - No report available.

Web Site - Rick reported that work on the PayPal function is in progress; merchandise for sale will be added

Public Relations - Steve Bethke reported that:

- the Birchwood Chamber is working to develop monthly activities. Chamber members are encouraged to plan activities to promote our community.
- Club information will be periodically submitted for publication in the AWSC magazine.

Map Ads - Committee members are Maryhelen Drew, Lee Ellerbruch, Gary Koel, Roger Beffa and Rick Oswald.

- Lee has sent letters to potential advertisers for the Washburn County map
- It was decided to print a 2-year ATV/snowmobile map; \$75 ad includes a 2-year club membership.

Sawyer County Alliance 30th Anniversary - Steve Bethke reported that:

- The club netted \$407 from sales at the event
- The club's display board was attractive and informative

Sawyer County Alliance Meeting Report - Delegates reported that:

- Groomer operators are needed in the Winter area; forward names of volunteers to Dale Beissel
- Down trees are being cleared from the trails

Old Business

- **Building and Equipment Use Policy** -
 - It was suggested that a log book be implemented to sign up for the building or to sign out equipment. Log should include a space for users to print their name, address and phone number.
 - It was suggested that there be a \$25 charge for building use with the expectation that the building be cleaned after use.
 - Rick Oswald volunteered to take calls for building use
- **Landowners/Volunteers Appreciation Dinner**
 - The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 11th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
 - Menu - Grilled chicken - Squeeze

Potato salad - Gladys Roux

Baked beans - Mike Robotka

Bars/cake - Maryhelen Drew, Kristy Ogilvie, Colleen Huppert, LaVonne Thompson

- Steve Bethke will stock beverages; 2 beverage tickets will be provided to each landowner
- Each landowner family will be given \$10 in "Birchwood Bucks"
- Paddle wheel prizes are needed. Rick volunteered to contact Jim Fischer to help in securing merchandise.
- **Billboard for Business Advertisements -**
 - Lee will market this opportunity in conjunction with Washburn County map ad sales.
Motion: Dave Drew/Maryhelen Drew that the cost of a 20" x 32" billboard space cost an annual fee of \$50 for a map advertiser and \$75 for a non-advertiser. Motion carried.
 - It was suggested that businesses could place advertisements on snow drags. It was estimated that 8 - 20" x 20" spots would be available at a suggested cost of \$25 per season. Advertisers would supply their sign.
- **"Adopt a Trail"** - Rick reviewed the concept and had trail maps, including mileage, on the tables to demonstrate trail segments for which volunteers could commit to "watch over". Trail maintenance is ongoing and needs everyone's help with this work.

New Business

- **Financial planning for the future to purchase groomer tracks** - Mike Robotka stated that the tracks on the BR-160 groomer need to be replaced now. He reviewed several options for availability and for purchase. **Motion: Steve Bethke/Bob Ellerbruch authorizing the club to secure a \$20,000 bank loan to cover the tracks at a cost of \$15,900, a snow drag, tires, freight and any other miscellaneous expenses related to this purchase.** Discussion included financial condition of the club, the need for dirt trail maintenance equipment and options for fund-raising. **Motion carried.**
- **Jachim property easement/related issues** - Rick reported that Charlie Jachim signed a one-year easement. Charlie has concerns that dirt bikes are "running around" on the property. Club members will install tinsel fencing along the trail on Monday.

Other Business

- **Raffle License** - The application has been submitted.
- **Bonding** - Paperwork has been submitted to our insurance agent to secure \$25,000 coverage for five club officers. Upon approval, the club will be billed \$533 for 3-years coverage.
- The Alliance LMC will be parked at Seasonal Power Toys to attract interest and to solicit volunteer groomer operators.
- Roger Beffa purchased five 6' tables at Menard's at a cost of \$34/each. Discussion followed with regard to purchasing folding tables. **Motion: Mike Robotka/Bob Ellerbruch approving the purchase of the tables.** It was the concensus to keep the tables that were purchased and take up the need for folding tables at a later date. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence

- Blue Ribbon Coalition newsletter is posted.

50/50 - Maryhelen won the money!

Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion: Bob Ellerbruch/Roger Beffa. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary LaVonne Thompson

Dates to Note: Saturday, October 4th - Benefit at the Spider Lake Saloon for Lee Ellerbruch
 Saturday, October 4th - Snow & Dirt Expo at the Barron Co Fairgrounds
 October 21st - Sawyer County Alliance Meeting