

NBFSC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

MONCTON, NB

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2012

1. Call to Order - President Jody called the meeting to order at 0807 hours. Those in attendance: Jody, Ross, Roland, Tim, Jim, Sandy, Brad, Alpee, Leon and Don. Absent were Dave, Jen, Art and Paul.

1.1 Jody welcomed the newly appointed Zone 1 Director, Roland Toussaint to the Board and introductions of the Executive and Board were made.

2. Additions to and Approval of Agenda - Jody indicated that Club 20 had made a written request to have their appeals re-introduced and their letter would be reviewed later in the agenda. No other additions were forthcoming. Agenda approved as presented.

3. Approval of Board's Minutes (Jan 22nd 2012 completed). Secretary commented on current approval process which was agreed to by Board would be done by email yet when vote is called for, only a small percentage of the Board actually respond. Failing to respond in writing does not give the impression that the minutes are important or that the Directors are interested enough to take the time to respond. A less than satisfactory outcome. Jody posed the question as to whether or not the Board wanted to continue with this procedure for minutes approval or adopt a different process. Consensus that current process would continue. Jody then requested that Directors make a greater effort to respond when requested to do.

4. President's & G.M.'s Report - Jody gave a report on the various activities which occurred during the past season. The various rides conducted were considered a huge success. A note of clarification – Tourism and Parks fund these rides and works closely with NBFSC to co-ordinate but no NBFSC funds are expended on them. Result is an excellent exposure to the rest of Canada through the magazine articles, videos, TV programs etc.

The planned ride with DNR staff had to be postponed due to the early thaw conditions.

Jody explained the letter from the Premier's office regarding funding of the groomer refurbishment/replacement program and that in all future instances, the NBFSC groomer priority list would be honored, whether the Club be in the north or the south.

Jody, Ross and Jim attended the CCSO meeting. A motion was adopted at that meeting with respect to railway crossings with support from every Province with the exception of Ontario. Jody clarified that while a landowner may have permission to cross the rail line to get to another part of his property, under existing CN rules, he cannot sub-delegate that permission to another party to use his crossing.

5. Treasurer's Report – In the absence of Jen, Jody reviewed the reports prepared by the Treasurer in advance of this meeting. Overall, expenditures to date are in line with budget. There are some variances in the actual permit sales of the various types versus projected numbers. Seasonal permits and dealer tags were up whereas Classic, Antique and Family permits were down slightly from last year.

<p>MOTION – Moved by Leon, seconded by Alphee that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read. Motion carried.</p>

6. Director's Zone Reports

Written Zone reports were presented for Zones 1, 4, 6 & 7. Zone 3 report was received but inadvertently not included in the package for presentation at this Board Meeting. No reports were received for Zones 5 and 8. Zones 2 and 8 gave a verbal report highlighting activities in their Zones. President reminded the Directors that the expectation is that written reports be prepared and forwarded to the office in advance of the Board Meetings. **Action by Zone Directors.**

7. Trail Manager's Report

In the absence of Kyle, Jody and Ross collaborated on the presentation of Kyle's written report. Highlighted were the GPS Tracking Units which were malfunctioning involving a number of Clubs, the current status of the PSS structures, results of Trail checks done this season, mapping plans for the coming season etc.

8. Permanent Committee Reports

8.1 - By-Laws & Policy Committee – Jim reported that he and Ross were continuing to work on the new Club Agreement – more information to come on this later in the agenda.

8.2 - Fund Raising Committee – Brad reported that everything was good. Ross will be revamping the Corporate Sponsorship program in an effort to rejuvenate this very important funding program for the NBFSC.

8.3 - Trail Committee – written report provided.

8.4 - Nominating Committee – Leon noted those Directors who were up for election at this year's AGM and canvassed the three Directors who were present. He will contact Zone 4 Director to ascertain his intentions.

8.5 - Human Resources Committee – statistical information normally provided to the Board was not received in time for inclusion in the information package for the meeting. Will be provided for next meeting.

9. Other Committees

9.1 Volunteer's Recruitment – no report in Art's absence however the President noted that there did not seem to be much action occurring on this very important issue.

9.2 Awards – no report as Dave was absent. President reminded of need to get nominations in by end of month.

9.3 30th Anniversary – Ross gave a brief overview of the monies raised during the ride-ins held as part of the celebrations and which were donated to Easter Seals. Only 17 participants in the TC Ride and considerable discussion occurred around improvements to be made if we were to hold such rides in future.

10. Old (Current) Business

10.1 Staff Responsibilities

President clarified the role of NBFSC staff – that they were not there as a support service for the Directors. If a Director wants to hold a Zone meeting, they are to make their own meeting room/hotel arrangements and not ask Janice or Lisa to do so. Ross as General Manager is responsible for assigning duties to the NBFSC staff and any request for their help must go through him.

10.2 Unrestricted Cash Funds (\$410K) January 2012

The action plan developed as a result of the Board's decision on this topic at the Board Meeting 22 January 2012 required the Zone Directors to hold a Zone meeting with all their Club Presidents to discuss the issue and obtain their input and decision as to how the funds would be divided within the Zone. The stipulation was that the funds be used for groomer/trail infrastructure projects only and only cover expenditures between July 1st and December 31st 2012.

Reports by Zone as follows:

Zone 1 – Zone Director contacted each President – consensus that monies be divided equally within Zone.

Zone 2 – Zone Director held meeting – consensus that monies be split equally among Clubs in Zone.

Zone 3 – Zone Director held meeting – consensus that monies be spent on infrastructure and divided equally among each Club in Zone.

Zone 4 – Zone Director absent but sent message by email that as result of meeting with Club Presidents, money to be divided equally amongst all Clubs in the Province.

Zone 5 – Zone Director absent.

Zone 6 – Zone Director did not hold meeting.

Zone 7 – Zone Director held meeting. Clubs would like to divide equally.

Zone 8 – Zone Director held meeting. Clubs want the monies to be divided equally and each would take their own dollars.

MOTION by Art (presented by Tim in Art's absence) that the \$410K be divided equally amongst the 51 Clubs. Seconded by Brad. Vote – 2 (Tim and Brad) in favor, 4 against. Motion Defeated.

MOTION by Leon (on behalf of Paul who was absent) to amend the start date inclusion for expenditures of the funds to November 1st 2011 rather than July 1st 2012 , such expenditures to occur before December 31st, 2012. Seconded by Roland. Vote – 2 in favor (Leon and Roland) 4 against. Motion Defeated.

After considerable discussion, the Board of Directors reconfirmed their decision taken at the Board Meeting on January 22nd, 2012 in respect of the division of the \$410K unrestricted funds.

Zone 2 Director had to leave the meeting due to a previous commitment so he requested that two items pertaining to Zone 2 be presented at this point in the agenda before his departure:

11.1 Proposal for Zone 2 – Zone Director presented a written business plan request from the Restigouche Snowmobile Club for financial assistance from the Federation to acquire a new groomer. President and Board acknowledged the excellent proposal submitted by Restigouche SC and the obvious degree of effort that went into formulating the business plan, however the Federation has no funds available to assist and the Restigouche SC currently ranks in 7th position on the Federation Groomer Replacement Priority List.

MOTION – Brad moved that the Restigouche SC be moved up to the top of the list for the next available funding for new groomers. Seconded by Sandy. Vote – In favor 3, against 3 resulting in a tie vote. The President then has to break the tie and voted against. Motion defeated.

Next Item presented by Zone 2 Director was in reference to the St. Quentin SC and the penalty assessed against the Club for incomplete PSS's. The Village changed an intersection thus leaving the PSS, where originally installed, useless. Because this was not the fault of the Club, they requested the Federation withdraw the \$500. Penalty assigned for this particular PSS.

MOTION – Moved by Brad, seconded by Alpee, that the \$500. Penalty assessed the St. Quentin SC be withdrawn by the Federation. Vote – 4 in favor, 2 against. Motion carried.

10.3 President Jody updated the Board on the progress being made in respect of the three Long Term and three Short Term objectives.

10.4 Trail #34 – CN Rail Crossing – discussions continue with CN Officials to find a solution to this issue.

10.5 Update on Research – Vehicle for GM and TM - in Jen's absence, this item tabled to next meeting.

10.6 Kedgwick SC, Club #41 - to date there has been no response from the Club with respect to the illegal trail constructed on Crown Lands. Deductions continue to be made from their payouts to recovery remediation costs.

10.7 Trail-Fuel access in Bathurst City – Ross will call meeting of players involved to seek a solution. He will also remind the group that the Federation will assist but that the resolution must come from the players involved.

10.8 PSS's Not Complete – Action Now – Discussion around the Trail Manager's report and on-trail observations by TM and GM. In effect there are still a large percentage of the PSS's not completed to the NBFSC guidelines.

MOTION – Moved by Leon, seconded by Roland, that the TM describe and outline every PSS not properly completed for each Club by 31 July 2012. Clubs will be given until 15 December 2012 to complete AND provide picture proof of such completion to the TM. Failure to do so will result in withholding of the affected Club’s December payout until such time as PSS and proof of completion are accomplished. Unanimous vote by BOD, Motion carried.

10.9 Proposed Groomer Needs Analysis – in the absence of the Trail Committee Chairman, this item tabled to next BOD meeting.

10.10 New Proposed Club Agreement – a review and discussion took place around the new proposed Club Agreement. A number of new additions and/or modifications of the existing Club Agreement were dealt with individually as below:

TRL-001 Jim moved, seconded by Leon that TRL-001 be amended as presented; Motion carried.

Club’s Attendance at Annual Events – new policy statement – Jim moved, seconded by Sandy. Motion carried.

Club’s Accident and Insurance Deductible Responsibilities – Jim moved, seconded by Roland. Motion carried.

Interactive Groomer Tracking Responsibilities – Jim moved, seconded by Tim. Motion carried.

Annual Club Agreement – Jim moved that the proposed new Club Agreement be accepted as written. Seconded by Sandy. Motion carried.

Board of Directors Responsibility Document – Moved by Sandy, seconded by Tim that this document be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

10.11 Club #74 Charlotte County SC – probation status – Tim gave a brief overview of Club’s activities, membership etc. this past season. Club is to be commended on their efforts to establish themselves as part of the winter tourism product in the Province.

10.12 **Litigation Report – Temple Insurance** – Ross gave the Board a briefing on the subject and indicated that the Rider Responsibility legislation and education program seem to working in our favor as there is only one claim against the NBFSC that he is spending any time compared to previous situation.

11. New Business

11.1 Addressed previously in these Minutes. (See page 5).

11.2 Annual Spring Zone Meeting Agenda – Ross presented a proposed agenda for the upcoming Zone Meetings.

Motion to accept as presented by Sandy, seconded by Alphee. Motion Carried.

11.3 Annual Club Survey Questionnaire – Ross presented the proposed Club Survey document.

MOTION to accept by Sandy, seconded by Alphee. Motion carried.

11.4 Proposed 2013 Trail Permit Pricing – discussion around holding the existing pricing structure or raising the price of permits in light of increased fuel costs for Clubs grooming.

Club #28 Goshen SC Motion re Classic Trail Permits – At the AGM, Goshen’s motion will come forward first. If approved, fine. If not, Board’s pricing structure re Classic Permits to be put forward. Ross will raise the Goshen proposal at the upcoming Zone meetings.

MOTION by Alphee, seconded by Tim that all permit types with the exception of 1 day daily permits be increased by \$5.00. Motion carried.

11.5 Proposed 2013 NBFSC Budget – discussion around the proposed budget for next year. Jody explained that a conservative approach had been utilized in drawing up the budget since this past winter’s late arrival/early breakup might have some impact on revenues for next year.

MOTION by Leon, seconded by Roland that the draft budget be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

11.6 Annual General Meeting – Spring 2012 - Jody presented a proposal to restructure the AGM into a two-day event in an effort to increase participation from the Club level. The proposal involved subsidization of Club's hotel rooms for Club delegates and a workshops approach on Saturday afternoon with a meet and greet Saturday evening.

MOTION by Tim, seconded by Sandy that the proposal be accepted. Motion carried.

11.7 Club #31 – Madawaska-Victoria SC – Request for Funds – Jody and Roland outlined Club 31's request. Unanimous decision that previous Board decision in similar cases will apply – no monies will be available to cover past purchases.

11.8 Club #66 Millstream SC – request Trail Permits for Rescue Operations – discussion of Club's request for the local Fire Department to be given Trail permit to allow them to access the trails in the event that they must rescue an injured snowmobiler on the trail. Ross explained the position taken advisedly by the NBFSC in relation to rescue sleds and Club involvement. NBFSC position is that local Fire Department be advised to do what it has to protect "life and limb" **and no permit would be needed for those special circumstances.**

11.9 GPS Tracking Units – Failed – new units have been ordered for those 6 Clubs whose units failed to operate satisfactorily during the winter. Overall, the system did what it was intended to do and a number of improvements are being worked on by the Trail Manager to be ready for next season.

11.10 Complaint – Fredericton/Nashwaak Valley SC's – Tim outlined the basis for this complaint. Decision of Board that a letter be written to both Clubs indicating that Policy TRL-003 was in fact violated and should be respected in any future activities involving trails belonging to another Club.

11.11 Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal from CCSO – Jody explained purpose and process. A name is required to be put forward by end of March. Action by Directors/Executive.

11.12 Club #20 SENBSA Appeal of Fines – Sandy presented a letter from the Vice-President of Club #20 requesting, for the 3rd time, a review by the Board of the penalty levelled due to non-compliance with Federation policies. Decision by Board that Appeal was heard once and a decision rendered. There is no provision for further appeals.

11.13 International Snowmobile Congress – Boston area – 6-9 June 2012 – Jody suggested that as the event was within driving distance, budget could permit 4 persons to attend. President, Vice President, General Manager and Trail Manager will attend.

12. Date of Next Board of Directors Meetings

Set for May 5th at Miramichi in advance of the AGM.

Set for two full days – June 15th & 16th at Adairs Wilderness Lodge rather than Woodstock as originally discussed.

13. Adjournment

<p>Moved by Leon, seconded by Alpee that the meeting be adjourned at 1735 hours.</p>

Don Wheaton

NBFSC Secretary