

SMNB Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Saturday, January 29th, 2022
Atlantic Host Inn, Bathurst, NB

Board Members in Attendance: Dave Garland, Ronald Lanteigne, Steve George, Mario Levasseur, Marc Hannan, Jim Connors, Brad Mann, Paul Robichaud. Greg was present afternoon by remote. Kyle Good (present when requested by board)

- 1) Call to order Dave
- Use of Motion Pads
- Board Code of Conduct/ Confidentiality

- 2) Additions to and approval of Meeting Agenda.
- 7.3.1 No Director for a zone
- 8.16 Permit size
-8.17 Government Relations
-8.18 Nepisiguit Club Request to rent Groomer
-8.19 Warming Shelters

**Ronald moved to accept the Board Meeting Agenda as amended. Seconded by Marc.
Motion Carried**

Brad moved to go in camera at 8:25am.

- 3)Approval of last meetings minutes (Sept.11th) (Enclosure).
Marc moved to accept the last minutes as enclosed. Seconded by Ronald. Motion Carried.

- 4) Presidents Report
-Snowmobiling off to a strong start given early snow conditions especially in the south part of the province.
-Trail Permit sales going well with the classic sales proving very successful, clubs can expect a higher than normal pay out as a result.
December pay outs were very strong.
-Corporate partners remain in good status and looking positive going forward.
-Kyle has had success in carrying out the media rides and in the Campbellton area he received help from Brad. Overall positive feedback from participants with good experiences at the different locations.
-Government relations remain positive and there will be a planned focus going forward to continue this important initiative.
-SMNB in support of the Take the Pledge campaign to only ride off trails where it is legal and allowed. Protecting the landowners that allow trails to cross their property is of utmost importance.
The plan is to have our board officially take the pledge during the President's Run.

5) Treasurer's Report (Enclosures)

- Year End Financial Statements FYI
- Profit and Loss--Current
- Account Receivables--Current
- Restricted Cash (External & Internal) Summaries--Current (Enclosure)
- Permit Sales to Date

Greg reviewed summaries of the enclosures related to the Treasurer's Report.

Greg moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Marc. Motion carried.

6) Trail Managers Report (Enclosure)

Kyle submitted a report that included Trail signage check schedule, Trail Mapping, Schedule for DNDED Licensee Consultation meetings, Provincial Trail Planning Committee, Trail counters, Update on Mount Carleton, and Sign Training /Autumn Zone meetings 2022 Schedule reminder, and finally PAC (Provincial Action Committee).

Marc moved to accept Trail Manager's report as presented. Seconded by Ronald. Motion carried.

7) Old (current) Business

7.1) THC/Fundy Trail Parkway Signature Trail?

Kyle submitted the idea that the Fundy Trail be added as a Signature Trail.

The idea was supported by the board and is now forwarded to Trail Committee for review and submission.

7.2) Facebook update

The SMNB Facebook page has been established with positive results to date.

Currently we have 772 followers and an increasing number of likes.

Kyle is confident this will continue to grow.

7.3) DIR-007 Policy Change (Enclosure)

Proposed changes to section III Policy and Practices section 2 and 3.

- Section 2 to be changed to the following:

Staff members shall not serve as President of any snowmobile, ATV or Off-Road Organization.

-Section 3 to be changed to the following:

Board Members shall not serve as President of any ATV or off-Road vehicle organization.

Ronald moved to accept these changes into policy. Seconded by Marc. Motion Carried.

7.3.1) No Director offered from Zone (By Law)

-A discussion in relation to a zone not having a candidate to replace a zone director who reached the end of their term resulted in the following:

-After the AGM, thirty days will be given to offer a replacement director for that zone.

If at the end of thirty days a person is not brought forward from that zone, a candidate may be appointed by the Board at their next scheduled meeting, as a director for a period of one year.

This will be tabled going forward to the next meeting's agenda to establish qualification for By Law change and a potential means to appoint or elect replacement.

7.4) Garmin Update

- Testing is continuing with units and in turn the goal is to meet the requirements of being reliable in winter months.
- Kyle presented a sample of what the size and appearance would be including the capability to maintain use in cold temperatures.
- the concern of offering trail info during the off season has been addressed by only having it accessing trails from Dec 15th-Apr16th.
- GPS units are being targeted to work on Arctic Cat and Yamaha snowmobiles.
- Kyle is to continue to keep the board updated on progress towards this being an option for us to provide trail map information.

7.5) Wall of Fame update

The Wall of Fame ceremony will occur at the Quality Inn Edmundston the weekend of Feb 25th. This will line up with the Annual President's Ride and thus presentations will occur during this time.

The following is a list of the five new inductees:

- Brad Mann....Past President/Current Director
- Raymond Lanteigne....Lanteigne Sport
- Richard Dobson.....Nepisiguit Sports Lodge
- Alyre Marquis.....Serpentine Sports Lodge
- Richard Boyd.....Millstream Snowmobile Club, Maritime Drag Racing.
- Each Wall of Fame winner may invite up to four guests to attend the meal and presentation.
- Hotel accommodations are offered to include one room for each winner.
- Invited to participate in President's Ride and can include one guest in which fuel and food will be provided.
- Jim is to reach out to Janice and Lisa to assist in coordinating the contact and sharing of details with the Wall of Fame Winners.

7.6) GM Replacement (ENCLOSURE)

- Paul submitted a report detailing the effort to access and interview candidates related to first round of applicants.
- Four candidates were interviewed at the SMNB Office in which no candidate was successful in being awarded the position.
- Additional resources including **Indeed** have been adopted to resource more applicants.
- Plan is to conduct a second round of interviews in the near future.
- Board will continue to be updated as the process continues, and more info is available.

8) New Business

8.1) DNRED Construction Committee (Enclosure)

- DNRED owns approximately 1100 kms of former railway lines and thus is responsible for the safety of its associated structure.
- Project costs during the 2021-22 fiscal year came in higher than estimated resulting in the necessity to postpone other rail bed related projects.
- FRL Trail inspections indicate a need to continue addressing infrastructure deficiencies.
- Capital budget this year totals \$1,000,000.00 which will support six bridges, misc. trapping signage and surfacing and erosion because of storm events.

8.2) 2022 Government Rides Planned- Updates

- Premier's ride has been officially cancelled.
- Tourism Ride currently being planned in March.
- Kyle will offer additional details closer to the date.

8.3) Nackawic Snow Drifters Ask-Loan for Brushing (enclosure)

- Club 10 is looking to borrow money from Snowmobile NB to have mulching done on trail 44 and trail 414.

- Greg moved Club 10 will get a loan from Snowmobile NB in the amount of the invoices when handed in.

Loan is to be limited to \$25,000.00. Interest rate will be prime plus 1% and at a minimum be taken from their December and June payout.

The loan is to be paid back in five years. The club can make payments to pay off the loan early and if done within three years will get a credit for the interest. The cheques for mulching are to be made out to the supplier of the mulching.

- This motion was defeated

8.4) Club # 73- Southwest Snowmobilers-Groomer Funding

- Inquiry related to this agenda item to be tabled to future meeting.

8.5) Bridge Requirements - Crown Lands

- Kyle to provide details of current lease associated with schedule C Bridge requirements signed with DNR.

-Current bridges in our system must meet a revised weight limit of ten ton.

-Bridges will be identified during specific times of year and will be given notice of closure once determined they no longer qualify for the minimum weight limit.

-Kyle is working on a plan to fast track potential bridge replacements of lengths including twenty, thirty, forty-five, and sixty feet. Concept is to have bridges pre-engineered and ready to install in a timely manner.

This should result in quicker site development plans and approvals, potentially avoiding delays.

8.6) Quad NB Joint Use Update (Enclosure)

- discussions are ongoing related to the joint usage of trail access on the rail bed in St Leonard.
- the request by Quad NB to share approx. 10kms of trail remains a concern and as a result is ruled a No from Snowmobile NB.
- Kyle presented that there are two options that could result in the sharing of the railbed for a distance of less than two kms. one being related to DTI and one with JDI.
- This is currently in play as Kyle waits for a response from Quad NB.
- Further updates to be submitted to the board as they become available.

8.7) Qualification for Family Permit Discount. (Enclosure)

- A question was submitted by a snowmobiler related to qualifying for a family discount. The third snowmobile in his family is registered in his wife's name versus his name thus disqualifying them for the discount. The primary two snowmobiles are registered in his name all of which have the same address.
- A discussion by the board resulted in creating a review to allow the Family discount based on address as opposed to name.
- This is tabled to make the recommendation going forward.

8.8) Late Season Permit, for Classic also? For AGM Vote

- Mario raised the question related to reviewing the price on late season permit to include Classic permits, with the same requirements already in place for the Seasonal.
- This has been tabled to establish being tabled at the AGM.

8.9) Club 20 -SENBSA- Update

- Club 20 continues to lobby for the replacement of the Lumsden Road bridge which was washed out prior to 2019.
- This bridge was used as a part of the trail system to connect Caledonia Mountain to Riverside and Hillsborough.
- This allowed snowmobile travelers to enjoy a scenic route connected to local gas, food, and accommodations.
- Club has pledged \$ 50,000.00 of fund-raised money to participate in the build.
- Currently, an application has been submitted to ACOA to request assistance in funding. Early indications show an approval rate of 75% for funding to be granted.
- Given the estimate of \$245,000.00, the project is looking very positive to meet final approval.
- Provincial government has also been engaged and natural resources are aware of potential outcomes.

8.10) GRM-006 Reminder (Enclosure)

- This policy is related to the Emergency Plan of moving groomers is presented as an FYI.
- Given the time of year and the activity of the groomers throughout the network, it is important for Zone directors and clubs to be familiar with the proper procedure.

8.11) President Ride- Modifications

- This year's President's Ride will occur on the weekend of Feb 25th at the Quality Inn Edmundston.
- This will include modifying the Wall of Fame presentation and Ceremony to be included during the President's Ride weekend.
- Lisa will communicate details associated with both the wall of fame winners and club presidents.
- This year two different routes will be offered to allow riders to have a choice. This will be coordinated when the final numbers are submitted.
- Indications are this will be a great weekend given the nice facility and trail conditions at this time of year.

8.12) Club 22 – Miramichi Snow Goers Ask – 4th Groomer (Enclosure)

- The Miramichi Snow Goers, Club 22 is asking for permission to purchase a 2003 Holland TM 125 Sur-trac system (no drag) Serial #188083B
- Club wishes to park 1999 NH and put the 2003NH on the trail as unit #3. Further to retain the 1996 as a spare parts supply.

Marc moved that Club 22 be allowed to replace the spare groomer with a better one. The new groomer will not be on the funding list and will keep the GPS unit that the current spare groomer has in it. This was seconded by Jim. Motion Carried.

8.13) Media Rides- Update

- Kyle reported Media rides went very well without incident. Destinations included trails in Edmundston, Mount Carleton, and Campbellton areas.
- Brad assisted in the ride to include taking the group to Squaw Cap lookout.
- Overall, a positive experience had by all given the cold temperatures at times.

8.14) Mileage compensation for Directors & Staff Expenses

- Paul presented some comparisons related to Government expenses related to meals and travel for employees.
 - Objective was to review, discuss and propose changes to update policy associated with travel.
- Paul moved that the current SMNB meal & mileage rates be amended as follows: A maximum of \$75.00 per day (before tax & gratuity), for meals. The use of a personal vehicle, at a rate of 55 cents per kilometer. The use of a vehicle towing a trailer, at a rate of 1.25 per kilometer. Effective date January 29,2022. Seconded by Brad. Motion carried.**

8.15) Jake Lee Road -Trail 790, Club 74 (Enclosures)

- Kyle was advised by Director of Crown Lands Branch that Bridge Crossing on Trail 790 Jake Lee Road has been recognized as a public safety concern and the structure currently in place does not meet the criteria identified in schedule S- Crown Road construction and maintenance specifications for bridges. As a result, this structure is to be removed or obtain permits to attain approved upgrades.

-Further a letter was received by Natural Resources related to a Dec 15th meeting, to advise that the trail 790 of the NBFSC managed trail network be suspended for the 2021-2022 Winter season (Dec 15-April 15th).

-Members of Club 74 felt off guard related to these communications given the timing of snowmobile trail season just starting. Further, this bridge was constructed due to a culvert being washed out. This was to be replaced a short time after the washout.

-Zone Director Jim immediately got involved and communicated to the local MLA about the situation. He maintained the issue was not the status related to permits, approvals or status of bridge structure but the status of the timing to the culvert being replaced.

-Response from MLA was agreement, and a follow up is in place with the resources minister to offer a possible temporary solution and a plan to replace the culvert.

- Kyle also indicated to Jim that JDI is aware of the current situation and is looking at contributing work to the replacement of the culvert.

-Jim has asked Kyle to be engaged in this situation and be mindful of Snowmobile SMNB best interest in protecting this important loop for Club 74.

8.16) Permit Size

-Paul offered some suggestions to downsize the trail stickers in the future.

-This possibly could be incorporated as part of the licence plate or be applied to a portion of the plate.

-It was agreed further discussions were needed and will be tabled to future agenda.

8.17) Government relations

- It was discussed that the importance of continued positive government relations and the challenge resulting from continued search for GM Replacement.

- The new GM will play a key role in his/her responsibilities of maintaining strong relations related to various Gov. agencies.

- Board members shared concerns of competition with Quad NB to be better positioned in obtaining government funding related to tourism, infrastructure, and other sources of funds.

- Dave opted to form a temporary gov. relations committee to act as an interim approach supporting this important initiative.

-This committee is composed of President Dave and Zone Directors Brad and Steve.

8.18) Nepisiguit request to rent groomer and decommission old Lamtrac

-Marc presented a request from Nepisiguit to rent a groomer and in turn have the hours accumulated by that groomer to be credited to the Lamtrac groomer.

-It was agreed this would require two separate motions given the potential of different asks.

Marc moved to allow Nepisiguit Lodge to rent a groomer for the 2021-2022 season and keep the decommissioned groomer on the funding list. Seconded by Ronald. Motion carried.

Marc moved to have the current hours on the rental unit to be added to the decommissioned Lamtrac for the 2021-2022 season. Seconded by Jim, opposed by Brad and Greg. Motion carried.

8.19) Warming Shelters

- Feedback was received related to individuals smoking cigarettes and cannabis in various warming shelters.
- Reports have also indicated minor altercations between snowmobilers discussing this practice.
- Board members agree the warming shelters are not the place for smoking of any kind due to the small spaces. The fact that they are indoor environments, respect must be given to all individuals in the shelters at any given time.
- Decision was made to have Kyle reach out to our printer and in turn develop a stencil to offer clubs an option to post No Smoking Signs in shelters.

9) Permanent (Board) Committee Reports

9.1) By-Laws & Policy Committee

- Policy adjustments made on separate added agenda item.
- Review ongoing related to potential By Law change recommendations

9.2) Fund raising Committee

- All going well related to current sponsors and supporters
- Grey Rock Powersports have opted to make available the Yamaha 400 Vernon due to limited sled availability which in turn SMNB appreciates the continued support.
- Torque Motorsports were unable to offer a Ski Doo this season due to availability issues. As a result, a donation of \$2000.00 of product will be made available to SMNB.
- Both Polaris dealers Hawkins and Patterson have offered support in donating a used sled for an event in which the SMNB may need it.

9.3) Trail Committee

- Next meeting planned for late Feb/Early March.
- Plans to remain informed on updates related to bridge standard changes and directives from DNR and Natural resources.
- Signature trail initiative ongoing related to establishing priority of trails to be considered and the order to which they will be presented.

9.4) Nominating Committee

- All good currently.

9.5) Awards (Internal & External) Committee

- Plans have been finalized and presented related to Wall of Fame winners.
- Plans are also going forward related to further submissions on upcoming awards.

9.6) Human Resources Committee

- Committee work ongoing related to recruiting next General Manager.
- Staff doing very well in working through busy season and look forward to next steps of appointing GM.

-Zone Directors continue in offering supporting roles to each staff member ongoing during the transition of replacing GM.

10) Dates of Future Meetings

-In the event Presidents Ride is cancelled the next meeting will be March 18th at Grey Rock.

-President's Ride going as per scheduled will result in next meeting March 18th at Adair's Wilderness Lodge.

-This will be confirmed by office and communicated.

Adjournment

Ronald moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by

Steve George

SMNB Secretary