

Minutes of the NBFSC Board of Directors Meeting

March 18, 2017

NBFSC Board of Directors Meeting held at Adair's Wilderness Lodge, Shepody, NB

Board Members in attendance:

- NBFSC President, Brad Mann
- Zone 1 Director & NBFSC Vice-President, Normand Martin
- Zone 2 Director, Lynn Mann
- Zone 3 Director, Leon Bourque
- Zone 4 Director & NBFSC Treasurer, Scott Ralston
- Zone 5 Director, Marc Hannan
- Zone 7 Director, James Conners
- Zone 8 Director, Dave Garland
- NBFSC General Manager, Ross Antworth
- NBFSC Secretary, Paul Robichaud

Absent from this meeting:

- Zone 6 Director, Marcel Richard

1. Call to Order

Brad called the meeting to order at 08:15.

2. Additions and Approval of Agenda

Use of Motion Pads by Directors

*Brad reminded the Directors of the need to write out their own Motions on the Motion Pad provided, and to discontinue the practice of having others at the Board table write these motions on the author's behalf. Brad then asked for any additions to the Agenda, to which Scott added... 9.7 Future Capital projects. **Leon moved to accept the Board's Agenda as amended; Seconded by Dave. Motion carried unanimously.***

3. Approval of Board's Last Minutes

- February 5th, 2017 (**enclosure**)

*Paul advised, that the copies of the Draft Minutes had been distributed to the Board members shortly after the February 5th meeting, and again, with minor corrections, a couple of weeks prior to this meeting. **Normand moved to accept the Minutes from the Board's last meeting held February 5th, 2017; seconded by Scott. Motion Carried unanimously.***

4. President's and GM's Report

- Federal Go Snowmobiling Rides, March 2nd and 16th
- Hymie Surkis Lawsuit
- THC – Provincial Trails Strategy
- THC – Tourism Growth Strategy
- AGM – Open Invitation to Minister Ames – THC

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Brad spoke about the go snowmobiling rides recently held for some of our federal MPs, both in Balmoral and Bathurst. Brad noted these rides were very successful, resulting in strengthened relationships, with our Federal partners. This was the first federal MP ride held in the Country.

Leon moved to go in camera; seconded by Marc at 0827.

Leon moved to come out of camera; seconded by Scott at 0831.

Ross spoke about a Provincial Trails Strategy with the provincial government, saying that it would take a bit of time from our GM and TM. Ross will report back to the Board, and the Clubs on this initiative. Leon noted a petition being circulated by the NBATVF, surrounding trail issues.

Ross also spoke about the Tourism growth strategy. The province continues to promote snowmobiling as a tourism product. It is expected, that a provincial government representative will be at our next AGM.

5. Treasurer's Report (enclosures)

- Profit & Loss vs. Actual Budget (as of February 2017)
- Accounts Receivables Aging Summary (as of February 2017)
- Summary of Restricted (Internal & External) Cashes (Current)
- 2017 Trail Permit Sales; all types (as of March 1st, 2017)
- Staff Remuneration for 2018 Operating Budget

Scott reviewed in detail, the above noted items contained in the Treasurer's Report, as included in the Director's information packages.

Scott moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Dave. Motion Carried Unanimously.

6. Trail Manager's Reports (enclosures)

- Trail Manager's Report, Winter of 2017
- Provincial Trail Planning Committee (DNR & DTI) Applications

Ross on Kyle's behalf, noted the primary focus has been to redo Trail Checks especially where there had been notable deficiencies. Overall the results have been very good, with just a few where fines will be assessed, as per policy. There were 60 people who attended the groomer workshop operator session.

Ross reminded the Board that April is the month where the Clubs need to begin applications for next year's trail changes. **Dave moved to accept the Trail Manager's report, as presented; seconded by Scott. Motion Carried.** Dave noted his experience in attending trail checks with the TM, over a couple of days, as very positive.

7. Director's Zone Reports (written)

Zone 8	Dave
Zone 7	Jim
Zone 6	Marcel
Zone 5	Marc
Zone 4	Scott
Zone 3	Leon
Zone 2	Lynn
Zone 1	Normand

Brad revisited the topic of not having Zone Directors submitting their reports. Brad surveyed the Board members around the table, as to whether the Directors wish to continue submitting these reports or not. The consensus was, that reports be submitted for the AGM, and the November meeting. **Normand moved that future zone reports be submitted for the AGM and the November meeting; seconded by Scott. Motion Carried Unanimously.** Marc read an email received from Club #7 for the Board's attention, included herein, as **Appendix "A"**.

8. Old (Current Business)

8.1 Mt. Carleton/Christmas Mountains Concept - Update

- Feb 17th Teleconference – Update (June 15th back to Woodstock Court)
- Feb 24th meeting with Solicitor, Bill Gould and THC-Parks
- "Friends of Mt. Carleton" /Friends of Mactaquac meeting, March 30th
- Trail to the base of the Summit – 'Sacred Ground'

Ross noted the court process will continue in June. A meeting was held in February with THC and Parks in order to gather past records showing historic snowmobile grooming activity in the Park trails. Ross has been invited to speak to the Friends of Mactaquac about the MC project. Ross then spoke about the trail to the base of the Summit, saying that the same rules should apply for visitors in the summer, as in the winter.

8.2 ACOA – Groomer Funding Applications (**enclosures**)

- Club #4, Chaleur SC - Update
- Club #1, Nepisiguit SC – Update
- Recent ACOA Press Releases.

Scott spoke about upcoming groomer grant applications from our member clubs. Ross noted that if we have ACOA funding in the future, it's not approved, until it is finally approved. Ross clarified the reason for funding retraction by the Federal Government for Club 4 groomer application, as it was for a new versus replacement groomer. Club 4 remains on the list for grant funding.

8.3 Groomer M.O.U. proposed changes (**enclosure**)

Scott spoke about proposed changes to the groomer MOU. Ross noted the amount of work that Staff and Scott have placed into this document, in the interest of improving and eliminating weaknesses in the document. Discussion took place among the Directors, as to what kind of safeguards need to be put in place for the overall protection of the system. One concept would be if a Club purchases a used groomer from another member club, that the age and hours of the groomer be reset to "zero". **This agenda item will be tabled to the June Board meeting.**

8.4 Groomer Funding (Nov 2016) Priority List – Exceptions;

- Club # 7, Miramichi Valley SC
- Club # 12, Restigouche SC
- Proposal to spend left over monies; \$9000.00 (**enclosure**)

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Ross and Marc updated the Board on the financial request concerning Club 7's groomer needs. Therefore, their request to be moved up the priority list is now rescinded. Lynn spoke about Club 12's situation, which has their current groomer up for sale. Lynn circulated a letter from Club 12 outlining their urgent need for a replacement groomer, included herein, as **Appendix "B"**. Discussion ensued around the Board table, as to how this situation can be addressed. **Lynn moved Restigouche Snowmobile Club request permission to sell their 2013 Case Groomer, with the understanding that they buy a 2013 Groomer or newer, with similar groomer hours (no more than 2,000 hours); seconded by Normand. Motion Carried Unanimously. Lynn moved to move the Restigouche Snowmobile Club Coop Ltd up on the Groomer List, to receive the \$100,000 grant towards a new groomer for 2017/2018 season; seconded by Jim. Motion Defeated. Nay Votes cast by Scott, Dave, Marc, and Leon.** Jim spoke about one of his zone's clubs looking at purchasing a groomer for \$20,000 for Charlotte county snow cruisers SC. This would be a consideration for the \$9,000 available funding, which is currently left over. **Jim moved that Club #74 retain its ranking on the current Groomer Priority List, and when funding grants are available, Club #74 will be eligible for the funding offered less \$9,042.00 of matching funding received previously in fiscal 2016-2017; seconded by Dave. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

8.5 Free 2017 Trail Permit Weekend; Results - Update (**enclosure**)

Brad talked about the stats surrounding our past 2017 Free Trail Permit Weekend, as included in the Director's information packages, saying there are interesting statistical numbers, especially from the Quebec market.

8.6 Annual 2017 President's Ride – Update (**enclosure**)

Brad spoke about the President's ride, and noted how impressed some of our corporate partners were, with the organization of this event.

8.7 Probationary Clubs - Update;

- Club #22, Miramichi Sno-Goers – By Law Compliance
 - Zero infractions under *Trail Checks* policy in 2017
 - Zero infractions under *Trail Grooming* policy in 2017

Brad noted the excellent progress with Club 22 both in signage, and grooming. Their probation review will be dealt with, at the June Board meeting.

8.8 Zone #1 Clubs proposed Matrix - Response (**enclosure**)

Ross noted the letter sent to the clubs in Zone 1 from the NBFSC is in the enclosure. Normand provided a letter from a majority of the clubs in zone 1, which states they want an opportunity to amend how the June payout is disbursed to the clubs. This letter is included as **Appendix "C"**. Instead of the historical 5-year average, which the payout is based, this proposal would see this changed to the past year's hours,

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for payout. Ross noted that such a change would require ratification by the AGM delegates, and cannot be dealt with at the Board level.

8.9 2017 Committee of the Clubs recommendations for AGM (enclosures)

Ross gave a brief background on how the Committee of the Clubs was created, which was as a result of our grooming hardships, of last season. Two meetings were held, with the outcome being 4 recommendations. First, set up groomer operator training. Next, continue as members of the Permanent Trail Committee. Third, an emergency plan, should a groomer breakdown, with mechanisms to bring in another groomer, as required. Last, a policy (GRM-005) of no day grooming on weekends. Discussion occurred on this last point, saying that it would create possible liability and be restrictive for a lot of member Clubs. Ross said that this is a chance for the Board to be proactive on “no day grooming”, before it’s possibly mandated by the province, in the future. **Board consensus is to not let GRM-005 go to the AGM, and that it be tabled for further discussion by the Board at a later date. Dave moved that GRM-005 (Draft) to be tabled to future Board Meeting, pending further investigations; seconded by Jim. Motion Carried Unanimously. Jim moved that the first 3 recommendations of the Committee of the Clubs be moved forward to the AGM; seconded by Dave. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

8.10 TRL-009 (enclosures)

- Clubs had a follow-up Trail Check performed, 2017

Ross noted Kyle provided results, for completed Trail Checks. One Club has disputed the Trail Check results. Leon reviewed the Trail Check report for Club 4, which is questioning the results. Leon spoke to the specifics of the report, to Board members. Ross then asked the Board to consider whether the subject of Shelter Signage on PSS installations, need to go to the Trail Committee for review. Leon asked that the Trail committee review the guidelines for the PSS.

8.11 TRL-004 (enclosures)

- Two Clubs have non-compliance issues in 2017

Ross spoke about the grooming monitoring process, thus resulting in TRL-004 implementing fines for 2 Clubs.

8.12 2016 NBFSC Annual Report – Distribution (enclosure)

Ross advised copies of the Annual Report were distributed to the Board.

8.13 Club #35, Assessment of \$\$ fine to Lamtrac for late Delivery

**Marc moved to go in camera; seconded by Leon, at 1133.
Normand moved to come out of camera; seconded by Leon, at 1145.**

8.14 Proposed By Law Change, Article #34.2 (**enclosure**)

Ross gave background as to how the proposed change to article 34.2 came about.

9. New Business

9.1 Proposed 2017-2018 Trail Permit Prices (for AGM) (**enclosures**)

*Brad and Ross talked about the proposed Trail Permit Prices for the AGM. Scott gave the rationale for price increases. **Normand moved to proceed to the AGM with this proposal on Trail Permit Prices, as presented; seconded by Jim. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

9.2 Proposed 2017-2018 Operating Budget (for AGM) (**enclosure**)

*Scott reviewed the enclosed proposed 2017-2018 Operating Budget for the benefit of the Board. **Scott moved that the draft budget be forwarded to the AGM; seconded by Dave. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

9.3 Club #31, Mad Vic SC dispute with ATV Club (**enclosure**)

Ross explained the situation in Zone 1, in particular the Grand Falls area, where some trails are on JDI property. There has been in the past, and currently is an agreement in place to share some of the ATV Trails. Currently, Club 31 is working towards having the trails separated, for the coming season.

9.4 2017 Annual Survey; Questions / Content – April (**enclosure**)

Ross noted the schedule has been set for the annual Club surveys.

9.5 2017 Annual Spring Zone Meetings; content – April (**enclosure**)

Ross also noted the Spring Zone Meeting schedule is set, with some minor changes to be made to the presentation. Ross also said this serves to prepare the clubs, for the AGM.

9.6 Company Sled

***Leon moved to go in camera; seconded by Jim, at 1251.**
Normand moved to come out of camera; seconded by Leon, at 1315.
Marc moved that the Board agrees to sell the 2014 Artic Cat, and will not be replaced; seconded by Dave. Motion Carried Unanimously.*

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9.7 Future Capital Projects.

Scott talked about a future proposal with 3 options for bushing, bridge repairs, and groomer repairs. \$150,000 would be proposed for this project. **To be tabled for the next Board Meeting.** Ross requested consideration for light bars for groomers and drags. Also, consideration for Shelter upgrades throughout the system.

Jim spoke to the Board about concerns regarding Director's expenses towards accommodations, when attending Federation functions.

10. Board's Permanent Committee Reports

10.1 By-Laws and Policy Committee

Ross noted this was already discussed.

10.2 Fund Raising Committee

Ross said they are preparing the program for 2018.

10.3 Human Resources Committee (enclosure)

Brad spoke about HR issues.

10.4 Nominating Committee (enclosure)

Lynn solicited intentions for the odd numbered zones. The only Director not reoffering is Leon.

10.5 Trail Committee

Paul noted next Trail Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for August.

10.6 Ad Hoc; Internal & External Awards Committee

➤ Wallace Kenny Award, 2017

Brad and Ross said nominations are open for this and other awards, 4 in total.

11. Dates of Future BOD Meetings

- Set for April 29th - 30th, 2017 at Rodd Miramichi Resort - NBFSC AGM
- Set for July 8th 2017 at Hampton Inns, Moncton
Scott requested the Board look at changing this meeting back to a June date.
- Proposed for October 13th, 2017 at "Mt. Carleton Lodge" in Park**
- Set for December 2nd, 2017 at Quality Inn, Campbellton.

12. Adjournment

Dave moved the meeting adjourned at 1340 hrs.

Submitted by,

Paul J. Robichaud
NBFSC Secretary

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Appendix "A"

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----
From: KIERSTEAD RONALD
Date: 03-14-2017 9:31 PM (GMT-04:00)
To: Marc Hannan
Subject: Ice Storm

Hi Marc

Would you please convey our Thanks to the board for providing funding to assist with the ice storm cleanup. Following the storm none of our trails were passable. The funding enabled us to hire people and rent equipment to do a speedier and better quality cleanup. The hired people working sometimes with our volunteers had our trails opened in a relatively short time, which was appreciated by our club members and visiting sledgers. Again our sincere Thanks.

Ron

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Appendix "B"



March 15, 2017

New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
147-B Houlton Rd
Woodstock, NB E7M 1Y4

Attention: NBFSC

Re: Restigouche Snowmobile Club - Snowgroomer

The Restigouche Snowmobile Club is applying for financial assistance from NBFSC to acquire a much needed new snowgroomer.

Our current groomer is a 2013 unit. However, we have encountered several major issues with it. To date, we have had repairs done for over \$70,000. Fortunately our warranty has covered these repairs ; however the warranty is finished this year. We are now at the point where grooming is only done on the main trail for fear of a major break down.

As you are aware our region receives more snowfall over a longer period annually, resulting in our season beginning earlier and closing later then anywhere in the province - as well with this comes a high amount of traffic and extensive wear and tear on our trails. As well, we often help the Kedgwick Club as they also have problems with their groomer.

Therefore, Restigouche Snowmobile Club is requesting to be moved up on the list this year to receive the \$100,000 grant to purchase a new groomer.

Yours truly,

Phyllis Gallie, secretary
Restigouche Snowmobile Club

Restigouche Snowmobile Club
18 Hackett Road
Glencoe, N.B E3N 4X7
Telephone: (506)759-8970
www.restigouchesnowmobileclub.com

Club House
Hackett Subdivision
Glencoe, N.B
Fax : (506)753-6068

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Appendix "C"

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13 mars, 2017

S'il vous plait présenter la proposition suivante à la prochaine réunion des directeurs de zones:

Nous les clubs de la Zone 1 proposons que le paiement de juin soit calculé sur une base annuelle au lieu d'une base de cinq ans en commençant par le paiement que l'on va avoir en juin 2017.

Please present the following proposal at the next zone director's meeting:

Commencing with the June 2017 payout we the zone 1 clubs propose that the June payout be calculated on an annual base rather than a 5 year base.



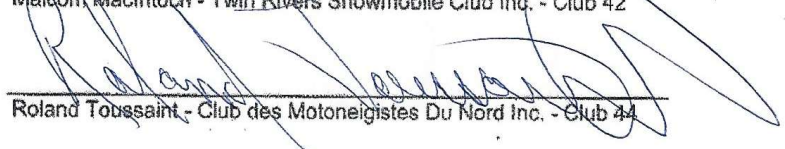
Dean Daigle - ASMO - Club 29

Pierre Godbout - Madawaska Victoria - Club 31

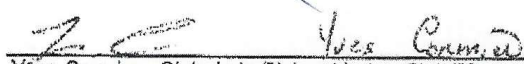
Kevin Harding - Victoria County - Club 39



Malcolm MacIntosh - Twin Rivers Snowmobile Club Inc. - Club 42



Roland Toussaint - Club des Motoneigistes Du Nord Inc. - Club 44



Yves Cormier - Club de la Riviere Verte - Club 76