

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN
NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

1. Meeting Called to order by Chair, Anne Small at 5:33 PM
2. Roll Call: Bob Schell, Anne Small, Jimmy Vogel, Becky Dunn, Jim Swenson, Marion Janssen. Also present was Penny McCormick, Wally Geist and Tom Christensen.
3. Anne verified that this meeting was posted as per the Open Meeting Law.
4. Motion to approve agenda by Jim Swenson, 2nd by Bob Schell, passed unanimously
5. Motion to approve minutes of meeting of January 18, 2017 by Bob Schell, 2nd by Becky Dunn, passed unanimously.
6. Tom Christensen, Town Chairman that there would be a discussion at the March 1, 2017 town board meeting of the two trails that will be on the 50' corridor. Funding is not available for the ATV/UTV trail. Tom suggested to the committee that a gravel corridor might be more affordable for the bike trail segment. Anne to contact Pitlik to get an updated estimate for the bike trail. Jimmy Vogel thought that doing both trails at the same time would be more cost effective. Tom stated that logging would not be allowed during "spring breakup", when road limits are in place. Other thoughts were to have the McNaughton inmates help with the trail and maintenance. Tom also thought that April would be the best time to notify the adjacent land owners to meet for an update on the trail that would border their property. Trail grants could be applied for in 2017, with work to be done in 2018.

Tom also informed the committee that he contacted the owners that were using the Awassa Trail to access the snowmobile trail and left voice mails. Fencing was discussed as an option to stop the use.

7. Candlelight Snowshoe Event: The Committee thought that the event was successful. Anne suggested doing a summer event using the LED candles. One suggestion would be to have benches/seating available for next year's event. The event donation box collected \$74.00. As Anne paid for the LED lights, the following motion was made: Motion by Marion Janssen to reimburse Anne the cost of the LED lights in the amount of \$136.12 as follows: Anne to retain the amount collected from the donation box by the trail head in the amount of \$31.79 and the amount of \$74.00 from the event box and the balance of \$30.33 to be taken out of the Awassa savings funds. 2nd by Bob Schell. Motion carried unanimously. Anne Small made motion to reimburse Jimmy Vogel the cost of the trail pass for his snowmobile in the amount of \$30.00. He does not use the snowmobile for personal use and got the pass to benefit the trail system. He also grooms both the fat bike loop and Awassa Loop on occasion utilizing his snowmobile and grooming equipment. 2nd by Marion Janssen. Motion passed unanimously. Bob Schell and Becky Dunn both stated their donations of food & beverage were not be reimbursed. Marion Janssen to inform Tom Martens to prepare the checks.
8. Awassa trails sign and donation sign: Anne Small passed out an estimate for signs to be installed on the trail head kiosk. They would acknowledge the work of Zach Bloom and donations from Mbank, Eliason Realty of the North and Wausau Homes. Cost would be \$84.22. Bob Schell

made motion to approve the purchase and design, 2nd by Jim Swenson. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Removal of old Awassa Trail sign: The committee felt that March or April would be the time to take down the old sign. If sign is in good condition, a possible location would be at the school entry to the trail. The sign could be repainted if needed. The posts are probably not usable and would either be cut off or pulled out depending on the condition. The road would need to be blocked off from traffic. Would Wausau homes be responsible for this? Marion Janssen will talk to Greg Schoone if he is at the Fire Department burn at Awassa Lodge and let the committee know.
10. Gate needs/options. Certain areas of the trail access points have been used for snowmobile access and Anne informed the committee that a temporary gate (a snowmobile fence) was put up prior to the candlelight event. Options discussed were boulders or a gate. Jimmy Vogel to research prices and design ideas for constructing a gate.
11. Earth Day: A group would like to volunteer to begin brushing the new trail on the Awassa property. No permits would be needed for brushing, but when the soil is disturbed, the committee would need to get a Storm water permit from the DNR. The committee felt that accepting this offer is beneficial and to proceed.
12. Picnic table donation: Penny McCormick did not get a chance to contact the Shambo's regarding whether they would approve having a picnic table donated in memory of Gary Shambo. Tabled until next meeting.
13. Other ideas: Anne informed the committee that she has made contact with the designer of the art exhibit at the Raven trail, the cost would probably prevent the town from doing this, but would consider in the future. Marion Janssen brought up a trails day event for the Awassa Trail, she will do research on hosting the event. Jim Swenson questioned whether anyone had signed up to adopt a portion of the bike trail system. Marion informed them that no response was received. Jim suggested that a posting in constant contact might be an option. Anne Small informed the committee that Vilas County had a meeting regarding bicycle routes and to inform them of any loops that our trail system offers. The committee could not think of any loop other than Birchwood Drive, which has a very curvy section that may be dangerous to promote. The committee was requested to bring a St. Germain road map to the next Vilas County meeting to discuss possible "bicycle road routes" for the town that would be included in the county-wide plan.
14. Fern Ridge Trail: Discussion of what would be needed at the trail, a better parking lot, new trail markers and brushing of the existing trail system were discussed. A sledding hill was been requested and the committee would look at the development at later meetings.
15. Next meeting on March 21, 2017 at 5:30 PM