

## TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

### Non-Motorized Trails Committee Minutes

03.23.2020

- 1) Meeting called to order by Anne Small at 5:37 PM
- 2) Roll call: present were Jim Swenson, Jimmy Vogel, Anne Small, Bob Schell, Penny McCormick. Also present was Tom Christensen. Absent was Brigitte Ryan.
- 3) Open meeting verification: Anne Small stated that the meeting agendas were posted in accordance with the open meeting law before 5:30 pm on March 21.
- 4) Bob Schell made motion to approve the agenda, Jim Swenson seconded. Motion carried.
- 5) Approval of February meeting minutes: Bob Schell noted one correction to the minutes, item #7b regarding the hot chocolate amount used for candlelight event. It should be 6 gallons. Bob made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Penny seconded. Motion carried.
- 6) Citizen Concerns: none
- 7) Awassa Trail
  - a) Trail Report – Jimmy Vogel reported that the drag had been put away for this year. He said that there is quite a bit of debris down on the trails and they may need some cleanup after snow melt. Committee decided to hold off on working on laying out the proposed Pink trail until after the Covid restrictions are lifted.
- 8) Fern Ridge Trail
  - a) Trail report – Jim Swenson stated that he was out at the trails and noticed that there had been a lot of tracks and considerable usage.
  - b) Fundraising/grant update – Jim Vogel stated that after getting go-ahead from town board to apply for the RTP grant, he and his wife have been working on filling out the needed paperwork for the proposed mountain bike trails. He would get in contact with Anne Small at a later date to discuss various questions. The grant deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 9) Bike & Hike Trail
  - a) Trail Report – Most of trail is still under snow. Anne Small will get an email out to the adopt-a-mile participants reminding of spring cleanup. Penny McCormick mentioned that Carol Brown has moved, so wouldn't be able to do her mile anymore.

Anne Small stated that she had complaints for a couple of individuals about frequent ATV use on the bike trail along County C. She stated that more signage might be needed. She would ride the route and make a count of the number of necessary signs. Jim Swenson said that he would also mention this to the ATV club and see if they would be willing to put up signs. It was also discussed to try using glue-on bolsters on the bike trail at the ATV/bike trail crossing behind the Chamber. Jimmy Vogel also stated that he did reach out to Sara at the DNR to see what had been decided as far as the ATV route along the high line. He had not heard back yet.
  - b) Set date for bridge repair work – Jimmy Vogel stated that he would get the plans and numbers together again for raising the bridge deck and also will work on getting information from Pitlick for paving the approaches.
- 10) Discussing/action item: Compensation for Jimmy Vogel for fuel and maintenance costs for grooming Awassa Trails and fatbike trail- Anne Small stated that Jimmy Vogel had logged 49.5 hours of grooming for Awassa and the fatbike loop, and used 55 gallons of gas. Anne Small made a motion to compensate Jimmy Vogel for fuel and maintenance costs in the amounts of \$750 and \$209. Bob Schell seconded the motion. Motion carried, with Jimmy Vogel abstaining.
- 11) Discussion/action item: Approval to use of Bike and Hike funds to pay for a portion of the UTV purchase by town and use of Awassa Trail funds for purchase of UTV tracks for grooming purposes- Jim Swenson stated that the town has a quote for a Gator for \$23,900 and the town will cover \$15,000. Jim Swenson made a motion that the remaining \$8,900 for the Gator purchase come from Bike & Hike account and that \$5,105 would come out of the Awassa account for purchase of the Mattracks tracks. Anne Small seconded the

motion. Motion carried.

- 12) Discussion/action item: Review and make suggestion to Town Board regarding the Forestry Stewardship Plan from forester Jill Nemec- Anne Small summarized the forestry plan for each of the parcels on the hiking trail portions of the town lands. She explained that if you look at the goals for many of the proposed cut area, the end product is basically the same if the parcel was left unmanaged. Anne Small gave other points as to the benefits of preserving the sugar maple forests at Fern Ridge, and not doing thinning in the oak forests at Awassa. She also presented information that brings into question the usefulness of a buffer cut around the red pine pocket mortality in the plantation area at Awassa. Anne Small made a motion that the committee recommend to the town that we refrain from timber harvesting activities on both the Awassa parcel and the Fern Ridge parcels, retaining the mature trees and allowing for natural regeneration, with annual monitoring for forest pests. Bob Schell seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 13) Other ideas/input from committee – Anne Small showed a couple of photo examples of trail entrance arches that Bob Schell had sent. These are to give ideas for Jimmy Vogel’s work on a trail entrance arch for the bike and hike parking area.
- 14) Next committee meeting is scheduled for April 27, and 5:30 PM
- 15) Anne Small adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM