

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

Non-Motorized Trails Committee Minutes from September 21, 2020

- 1) Meeting called to order at 5:34 PM by Anne Small
- 2) Roll call: present at meeting were Bob Schell, Jim Swenson, Jimmy Vogel, Penny McCormick, and Anne Small. Absent was Lynn Uthagrove.
- 3) Open meeting verification: Anne Small posted meeting agenda before 5:30 PM on Sept 20, 2020.
- 4) Read and approve minutes of last regular meeting: Bob Schell made motion to approve minutes from the August meeting, Jim Swenson seconded. Motion carried.
- 5) Citizen Concerns: none
- 6) Awassa Trail
 - a) Trail Report: Anne Small stated trail was in good shape for winter at this point. Penny McCormick reminded committee that the sign for the blue loop at the first snowmobile trail crossing needs to be moved so that it can be seen over all the downed pines.
 - b) Opening of bids for trail segment from Eaglewatch Ct to school, and recommendation of committee to the town board: Anne Small opened bid from Steve Vogel Services for the amount of \$2700, which included a \$500 discount as a donation to the trails. Committee agreed that this bid would be within budget and appreciated the donation/discount offered by Vogel. Jim Swenson made motion to approved bid by Steve Vogel Services. Bob Schell seconded motion. Motion carried, with Jimmy Vogel abstaining. Jim Swenson would let the town board know of our recommendation at the next town board meeting for their approval.
- 7) Fern Ridge Trail
 - a) Trail report – Jim Swenson reported that trail has been getting a lot of use. Trail route is still clear. Jimmy Vogel said that after leaf fall, he recommended blowing the loops again. Jimmy Vogel asked if there was any progress on the highway 155 sign for Fern Ridge. Anne Small said that she had repeatedly asked Tom Christensen to submit the signed paperwork for the application, but she has not heard from him. She asked Jim Swenson if he could fill out and sign the paperwork instead since he is on the town board. Jim Swenson said he would take care of it. Anne Small said she would forward Jim the required paperwork.
 - b) Snowmobile/ATV trail relocation update – Jim Swenson stated that a concerned citizen had reported the upcoming trail relocation work to the DNR, and that, even though the calculated soil disturbance would be less than an acre, he was advised by Jillian Steffes from the DNR to apply for a stormwater runoff permit. Jim said that he did apply for the permit and that the permit was approved, therefore the construction can go ahead.
 - c) Purchasing gates for old snowmobile/ATV trail – Bob Schell made a motion to spend up to \$700 to purchase two gates and installation materials to block snowmobile/atv traffic from the old trail segment on both ends. Jimmy Vogel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jimmy Vogel stated that these gates would be put in place at the top of the hill off of Hwy 155, and at the forest edge by the stump dump, along with a berm to prevent traffic from going around the gate. Jimmy Vogel will pick up gates.
 - d) Fatbike trail planning – Jimmy Vogel stated that we did not get the RTA grant for the mountain bike trails at Fern Ridge. He said that we were still in the running for the Stewardship Acquisition and Development of Local Parks grant funding. Jimmy Vogel said that he would like us to meet out at Fern Ridge and layout some fatbike trails for use for this winter. Committee agreed to meet on September 30, at 4 pm, at the Fern Ridge trailhead for this purpose. Jimmy Vogel suggested that we should start raising funds for construction of the mountain bike trails, since we may not get funding from the DNR. He suggested writing a letter to area businesses and biking corporations. Committee agreed that this would be a good idea. Jimmy Vogel said he would work with his wife Jeanna to get a letter drafted. Anne Small said she would ask Terry Duke about the REI trail grants.
- 8) Bike & Hike Trail
 - a) Trail Report – Jim Swenson stated that Jimmy Vogel is now officially a town employee, which will allow

him to use the town's UTV to do trail maintenance and for grooming purposes at Awassa. Jimmy plans to mow the bike trail edge one more time and also blow the trail.

- b) Repairs to trail by Plum Creek - Jim Swenson reported that the town crew did repair the hole in the trail.
- 9) Plans for the winter snowshoe and candlelight events at town trails – Committee agreed to hold both events, with social distancing and face coverings required. We would do a bonfire, but no marshmallows for roasting. The dates for the events will be: Fern Ridge Snowshoe Event on January 16, 1 pm – 4 pm, and Awassa Trails Snowshoe/Ski/Fatbike event on February 13, 6 pm – 8 pm. More details will be planned at future committee meetings.
- 10) Other ideas/input from committee – Penny McCormick asked if we could install a bike rack at the Awassa Trails entrance by the school. Committee thought this would be a good idea. Anne Small suggested that the purchase could be made using the Silent Trails UA funds.
- 11) Next committee meeting scheduled for October 20, 2020
- 12) Meeting adjourned by Anne Small at 6:54 PM