

**TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN**  
**Non-Motorized Trails Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes – Dec 15, 2020**

- 1) Meeting called to order by Anne Small at 5:36 PM
- 2) Roll call: Present were Bob Schell, Penny McCormick, Jimmy Vogel, Jim Swenson and Anne Small. Absent was Lynn Upthagrove. Also present was Terry Duke.
- 3) Open meeting verification – Anne Small posted meeting agenda before noon on December 14, 2020.
- 4) Read and approve minutes of last regular meeting – Anne Small made motion to approve minutes as written, Jimmy Vogel seconded motion. Motion carried.
- 5) Citizen Concerns –
  - a) Terry Duke suggested that the town and Vilas County look into getting official signs or decals for the paved bike trail noting that it is a National Recreation Trail. Anne Small said that she would find out from Cindy Burzinski at Vilas Tourism if they have plans to distribute signage.
- 6) Awassa Trail
  - a) Trail Report –
    - i) Anne Small stated that she had been out on all of the ski/snowshoe loops and nothing was in need of attention. She mentioned it looked like a lot of foot traffic.
    - ii) Jimmy Vogel said that more snow is needed for grooming
    - iii) Jim Swenson noted that there was a donation from John Huppert to Awassa Trails for \$100 along with a letter against the ATV use of bike trail in town. Swenson also mention that there was a \$150 donation to Awassa Trails from Len and Pam Larsen.
    - iv) Committee members to meet at 9:30 AM on December 21<sup>st</sup>, to put up the new map signs and trail marker signs along the loops.
  - b) Reimbursement for gate for trail entrance off of Eaglewatch trailhead – Anne Small made motion to approve reimbursement of \$250 to Jimmy Vogel for manufacture of the gates that were installed at the trail entrance from the Eaglewatch parking lot. Bob Schell seconded motion. Motion carried with Jimmy Vogel abstaining.
- 7) Fern Ridge Trail
  - a) Trail report – Jimmy Vogel said that he had hiked the trail in the past week and it was packed and slick in spots, but looked like it was getting plenty of use.
  - b) Mountain bike trail/fundraising update – Jimmy Vogel reported that the fundraising total to date was \$3025. He said he was taking care of sending out thank you notes. Vogel said that he had not yet received any paperwork from the DNR regarding the grant.
- 8) Bike & Hike Trail
  - a) Trail Report – Jim Swenson said that they town board had not yet received a report from the ATV club on the north-south connector across from Cathy's Ice Cream Shoppe.
- 9) Forest Management Plan for Awassa and Fern Ridge
  - a) Anne Small stated that she was working on the Forest Management Plan using Jill Nemec's plan as a base. She planned to distribute some journal articles to the committee and town board regarding passive management of forests. Jimmy Vogel suggested that we have Tom Christensen come out to view the forests on the two properties, in particular the pine plantation on Awassa where there was an issue with red pine pocket mortality. Jim Swenson said he would speak with Mr Christensen. Bob Schell mentioned that the appearance of the cuts along the Shannon Lake property on the State Forest were very bad.
- 10) Trail scavenger hunt – Jimmy Vogel suggested that since we aren't holding our usual events at Awassa and Fern Ridge, that we could try doing a scavenger hunt. Committee members liked the idea of the scavenger hunt and would work on ideas for how to put this together for January through February.
- 11) Other ideas/input from committee
  - a) Jimmy suggested getting a set of keys for gates and donation boxes on all the trails, so that we can give them to June Vogel, town clerk. Committee also thought it would be good to get a set of the gate keys to the fire department.
- 12) Next Committee meeting will be January 19, 2021, at 5:30 PM
- 13) Meeting adjourned by Anne Small at 6:59 PM