

# Washburn ValHellers Snowmobile Club

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 8, 2023

6 p.m. Washburn Town Hall

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Pres. Nate Swiston.
2. **Roll Call:**
  - Board members present: Nate Swiston (president), Amy Mashlan (secretary), Mary Ross (treasurer). Bill Mihalek (director), Ron Rechel (director). Absent: Randy Mashlan (vice president).
  - Club members present: Brenda Rechel, Kim Ross, Jeff Mashlan, Mike Harvey
  - No members of the public present.
3. **Meeting minutes:** presentation of agenda for tonight's meeting. No minutes available from previous meeting.
4. **Reports**
  - a. Treasurer:
    - i. Account Balances:
      1. Checking acct. balance: \$9,142.23
        - a. Outstanding due to club: \$13.50 AWSC fees (Hudak)
      2. Savings balance: \$6,923.66
      3. Groomer Barn Savings Acct: \$9,299.57
    - ii. Membership Updates
      1. 77 individuals (41 non-renewed members)
      2. 16 business memberships (5 non-renewed)
      3. List of non-paid businesses was discussed.
    - iii. Upcoming Expenses:
      1. Upcoming season expenses:
        - a. Raffle license: \$50
        - b. Insurance: \$295
        - c. Chamber membership: \$130
        - d. Satellite phone: estimated \$206 for 3 months.
  - b. Secretary:
    - i. Meeting minutes will be posted to club website, along with clubs Facebook page.
  - c. Groomer Update:
    - i. Groomer is currently down (March 8th). At Lulich's for repairs. Unknown when it will be fixed.
    - ii. The groomer has a radio that was given by County. The antenna cable was broken. Motion made by Mihalek, seconded by Rechel to have Mike Harvey get an estimate for a replacement. Estimate will be brought to the Alliance for approval.
      1. If the radio is operable and still monitored by County dispatch, the club could avoid using a satellite phone during grooming months.
  - d. Trail Update
    - i. Trails are in decent, late season condition. Warmer mid-day temperatures make trails soft in the afternoons. Prior to breaking down, the groomer could only go out in the earlier hours, so as not to make trails worse.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Summary of 2023 fundraiser
  - i. The club raised \$5,775.06 at the club fundraiser held at Patsy's on January 14, 2023.
- b. Trail reroutes for 2023/24 season.
  - i. Mandatory reroute on the Matt & Rite Sunday property (previously owned by Vivian Swanson across from Pub & Grub). A new trail will need to be flagged, cut and brushed by club members. Bayfield County will likely help with bulldozing. The club will plan a work day when the snow breaks.
  - ii. Cook-Marx-Sander's property reroute. Trail will be moved away from the highway ditch. Less work for this reroutes. This was previously approved by the landowner, Bob Marx.
- c. Groomer barn discussion:
  - i. The snowmobile club is looking for land to build a groomer barn that could house the two groomers the club uses. The ideal location would be centrally located in a neutral location. The Alliance will allocate \$10,000 per groomer to support the club (total of \$20,000). The club is responsible for raising the remaining money.
    - 1. Land has been offered to the Bayfield Co. Snowmobile Alliance for the purpose of a groomer barn by private party Doug Summers. Other properties are also being considered.
    - 2. ValHellers have held annual fundraisers to support this project. Monies raised have been placed in a designated groomer barn account. Pub & Grub has had separate fundraisers, and those monies are being held by the Alliance.

## 6. New Business

- a. Structure of future meetings
  - i. The intent of making club meetings more structured and formal is to encourage a better attendance and increase transparency.
  - ii. Club meetings are typically held the second Wednesday of the month, from September to April. The Washburn Town Hall has been secured for April and May meetings.
- b. Club Board Elections
  - i. Nominations for board positions will occur in September, with board elections held in October.
- c. Future committees
  - i. With increased membership, the hope is to develop committees that would work on different projects (signage, brushing, etc.)
- d. 2023/24 Goals
  - i. Build club membership and participation.
  - ii. Merge the control of the two groomers to the club, instead of having the two groomers given to the club being managed separately.
- e. Landowners' Dinner
  - i. Motion made by Mihalek and seconded by Ross to pursue booking the Washburn Event Center for spring landowners dinner. Swiston will contact the event center and Breakwater (catering) to check availability.

## 7. Public Comment

- a. Question from the floor about ways to increase club meeting attendance and participation, especially focusing on youth coming into the sport.

- i. Motion made by J. Mashlan to look into offering club sponsored safety classes and explore discounted youth memberships. Motion seconded by A. Mashlan and approved by board.

**8. Next Meeting**

- a. Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Washburn Town Hall.

**9. Adjournment**

- a. Motion made by Mashlan, seconded by Ross to adjourn.