

ATV Maine Meeting
Hosted by: Jeff's Catering
04/23/2022

Meeting called to order at 9:11 AM

Please turn off phones

Appropriate meeting conduct

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of officers:

President – Real Deschaine
Vice President – John Raymond
Treasurer – Sue Lanouette
Secretary – Cheryl Friedman
Northern Region VP – Dick Howlett
Central Region VP – John Raymond
Eastern Region VP – Daryl Friedman
Southern Region VP – Shawn Landry
Western Region VP – Ed Zelinsky-absent
Web/Facebook Administrator – Daryl Friedman

Directors Count: 19

Secretaries report was printed out for review. Lewis Conrad motioned, and Bob Marke seconded suspending the reading of the minutes-passed. Report accepted.

Treasurer's report- we have \$24,586.50 in our regular account and \$69,345.62 in our liability account. Lewis Conrad motioned and Shawn Landry seconded accepting report as given-passed.

John Raymond spoke. When he took over the VP position, there was 3 things he wanted to see happen and all 3 were accomplished: an audit, hiring a lobbyist, and getting the newsletter back up on the website. He also advised he hopes to have the trail from Millinocket to East Millinocket finished this summer. He is also trying to bring an ATV trade show to the Bangor area. He has been making connections by attending other trade shows.

Dick Howlett advised there is not much going on in his area where the snowmobile season just finished up. He hopes to have their trails open Memorial Day weekend. His club is holding their Ultimate AVT Event after having to take the last 2 years off due to the pandemic. It will be 8/19/2022 to 08/21/2022. John thanked Dick for helping with the ATV task force.

Daryl brought everyone's attention to happenings in the back of the room-the door prize table and that Kendra and Natalie are selling tees, hats etc. The trails in the Eastern Region are not open yet. The website was migrated over to the new server. He also gave a reminder to let him know of officer or address changes so he can update the website. He can also put up club rides, club newsletters, membership applications and meeting announcements.

John advised that he has nothing regarding the Central region where he just took over.

Shawn advised that he has nothing for Southern region as he is still waiting for meetings to start back up for the year.

Brian Bronson:

Brian gave out the recognition awards for people putting in over 40 hours of volunteer trail work for the prior year. He had over 1200 volunteers with over 25,000 hours submitted to him.

There will be another 2 Million going into the trail fund. 100% of the residence registration fee increase is going to the trails. Most of the non-residence increase is going to the trail fund, with the difference going to law enforcement. He is expecting to see a decrease in registered machines. Many of the landowners he has been working with are talking about closing trails as they are not being maintained to the landowners requirements. He said it averages about \$800 a mile to maintain them.

Adam Rice is the new contact for southern Maine clubs. Bailey Grant got done so they are trying to find a replacement for the downeast position.

There are currently 16 washouts on the Downeast Sunrise trail but they can't get to them as some roads are still posted. They have signed a contract for the Madison Rail Trail and work should start asap with a goal to be usable by the end of the year.

Chris McCabe spoke. He has replaced Dave Chabot. They have 3 Land Owner Deputy positions open. They are hoping to fill them with retired law enforcement people by June. Chris was asked about fines not being enough to discourage bad behavior. Chris advised that would need to be brought up to legislatures.

Brian wants clubs to get re-authorization of land use from land owners to clarify just what they will allow. That's why he sent out a newly designed form with those extra questions.

Chris Gamache, Trail Master from Polaris Ride Command spoke briefly. It is his job to make sure the digital maps on Ride Command are accurate. He needs to know what corrections are needed.

Real spoke regarding New Brunswick wanting to create a reciprocity agreement so we can each ride in the other's area without having to register. Will be looking at that for next round of legislature.

Break from 10:50 to 11:07

We had a Zoom meeting with Steve Wilkie and Terri Lambert from New Hampshire on their process of registering atv's and being a member of a club. People that can show they are a member of a club get a discount on their registration fees. They saw approximately a 45% increase in club memberships. NOVAH requires the clubs have trails they need to maintain to qualify. For each membership, \$10.00 goes back to NOVAH. They also have grants. NOVAH works with the Bureau of Trails to review grant requests for approval. The club must be in good standing with the Bureau of Trails. They also recommend online sales of memberships to make things simpler. Make it a system where people can sign in anytime to get proof of membership. They had begun just providing certificates through email but that didn't work well. This program brought increased membership, increase in trail funds and increased funds for lobbying.

Lunch 12:00 to 1:00

We had a Zoom meeting with Laurie Sidlinger from Honor Flight of Maine. Every veteran that wants to see the Veteran's Memorial in D.C. can go at no cost for themselves. A medical team goes on each flight. By May 3rd, 25,000 veterans will have made the trip. They have 6 flights planned out of Portland for this year.

Shawn Landry motioned and Ron Green seconded a motion to donate \$200 to Honor flight if the 50/50 raffle doesn't bring in that much. Passed.

Brian Bronson clarified the new weight/width restrictions. 65 inches and 2,000 lbs. are the revised maximum limits for registering a machine. If the machine is already registered, and you are a Maine resident, then the machine is grandfathered. At the time of the task force project, there was between 400 and 500 oversized machines. If a trail is on the land owned by multiple land owners and only 1 landowner says nothing over 60", then the whole trail is restricted to 60". He is not funding new trails until current trails are taken care of. Everyone should be working on submitting municipal grants by middle of May at the latest.

Real announced that we have not heard from our Western VP in 2 years. Shawn Landry motioned and Dick Howlett seconded a motion to take steps to remove him. Passed

The winner of the Pot Of Gold was Oxford Hills and no one from that club was in attendance.

50/50 drawing – winner of \$138 went to Doug Dickenson. We gave \$200 to Honor Flight.

Winners of the 4 Ride Lights: Mike Lanouette, Jessica (?), Edie Dunlap and Jim Butler.

Ron Reed motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Steven Day.

Adjourned at 2:20

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Friedman
Secretary, ATV Maine