

ATV Maine Meeting  
Hosted by: East Branch of the Sno Rovers-Medway

Date: 06/04/2022

Meeting called to order at 09:01 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 – Sean Landry
	Western Region VP – vacant
	Web/Facebook Administrator – Daryl Friedman

Directors Count: 10

Real advised that ATV Me received some mail:

1. A thank you for our donation to Honor Flight of Maine – donated \$358.00
2. Sportsman's Alliance of Maine thanked ATV ME for rejoining
3. Camp Capella sent a request for donations. Lewis motioned and Cheryl seconded that ATV ME donate \$100.00-voted and passed.

We had a Zoom meeting with Ed Pineau to discuss things we would like to work on in the upcoming legislative session. One of which would be creating program with the New Brunswick Federation of ATVs to create reciprocity so we can ride there and vice versa without having to register our act. Hope to have a bill put in for this fall. If members have any thoughts on things Ed should work on, we want to hear suggestions.

Ed mentioned we are losing IF&W Committee support due to expiring terms, so we need to work on relationships with upcoming legislators.

We need to go after the gas tax. From 2002 to now, the ATV side has only been getting about \$135,000 and the snowmobile side has been getting about \$1.5 million. ATVing has grown greatly since 202 so we need to work to make it a fairer split.

We also discussed with Ed that we want to look at doing something similar to New Hampshire where they give breaks on registration if you can show you belong to a club.

We also want to look at stiffening fines for people causing issues on trails. Speeding, riding non trails, riding before trails are open.

Real mentioned that he thinks the weight and width issues may come back up this fall. Sunday hunting may also come back up. We support the landowners.

Real spoke with several clubs regarding the timing of being able to open club trails. Jim Carron who works for Brian Bronson, advised that trails couldn't be opened prior to May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Irving contract stipulates that trails could be opened May 21<sup>st</sup>. ATV Me is choosing to support May 28<sup>th</sup> due to trail conditions.

We talked at the e-board meeting last night about the possibility of bringing back awards for the April Banquet. We should think about ideas and bring them up at a future meeting. For example, the high mileage award. Who drove the furthest for the meeting. Just fun ideas.

John explained that we are looking at using membership cards like MSA and changing how stickers are done to alleviate issues we had over the last few years. The local club would give out an ATV ME membership card and send in a card to ATV ME. Based on that card, ATV ME would mail out the ATV ME sticker.

We had an in-depth discussion about use of stickers. ATV ME's position is that the club needs to "police" their use of stickers. It is not ATV ME's place to police the sticker use, nor is it feasible. The clubs should not be giving stickers out to those who still have ATV ME stickers on their machine from a prior year. The 23 clubs that have trails on Irving land are the only ones that have to give out stickers. Other clubs do not need to give out stickers but can if they choose.

Dennis suggested all landowners require riders to be ATV ME members. Dick explained that the task force asked all the big landowners that were on the task force consider requirement of ATV ME membership, but none wanted to do that.

Break from 10:04 to 10:25

John went back to the cards for a minute, asking if anyone had questions. No one did. We are still in the research phase of this and will have several more meetings before anything is decided.

John brought up the possibility of selling merchandise (hats, shirts etc) online. He has done this with Vista Print Pro Advantage program and it works well. People would order on our site; we would then forward the order to Vista Print. They would create the item and ship it directly to the person ordering. John said that in the past, orders up to \$60.00 have had a \$3.99 shipping fee and if over \$60.00 it was free. We would still have items on hand for trade shows etc. We will revisit again in a future meeting.

John has been looking into hosting an ATV trade show. He met with Jen Snow from the Cross Insurance Center and Alex Gray from Waterfront Concerts. Both are interested. We would like to have the show at the Cross Center and co-ordinate concerts on Friday and Saturday nights of the show to have more of a draw into the city for the weekend. We could hold safety classes, have vendors, and manufacturers in attendance. We would be looking at doing this in 2024. We could either rent the center and have it all be on us, or the center would work with us and after all expenses, they would split the proceeds with us and see how the first year or so goes. John spoke with Chris Gamache from Polaris, and they might be able to have their 18 Wheeler there. John thinks once Polaris commits, then a few other dealers might follow. John also wants to see about bringing in Hollywood Slots, maybe have them give away an ATV or side by side where they give away autos sometimes. The Cross Center would also help us with

advertising etc. John will be attending the Jericho Festival in New Hampshire to get ideas and talk with vendors about interest in our show.

John advised the trail going from Millinocket to East Millinocket has been on hold. The guy that he was working on approval with has retired and the new guy has different ideas. Brian Bronson came up and they spoke with the new guy and got the issues resolved.

We circled back to the prior meeting's minutes. Lewis motioned and Dick seconded suspending the reading of the minutes. This passed.

Sue gave the treasurer's report. We have \$26,296.28 in the regular account and \$74,049.15 in the liability account. Mike motioned and Dick seconded accepting the treasurer's report as given. John would like to see a treasurer's report handed out at the April Banquets.

Dick mentioned that trails in his area have been closed due to recent hard rains and that repairs are now needed.

We discussed that Brian Bronson has been cutting municipal grant requests as he is anticipating an increase in requests this year.

Lewis advised all is going well in his area so far this year.

Daryl advised we are gearing up for the Machias ATV Jamboree. He and Cheryl are taking the safety trailer but are not setting up a course, just for a display and showing people what we have. The website has been going well. He has been putting out fires as best he can on Facebook, nothing new there. We currently have 41 clubs renewed so far. 21 clubs have purchased insurance.

John and Lewis are going to the Rumford club meeting on 6/8/2022 to answer questions. We need to be attending other club meetings to see about gaining more clubs.

Daryl advised that he has had requests from several clubs so has sent them information on the insurance and what it covers.

John took over the Central Region and has not had a chance to meet with clubs. He hopes that our insurance will be an incentive for clubs to join ATV ME. Some clubs have seen a very large increase in their current policies.

Western region – we have not seen Ed Zelinsky for over 2 years, so we need to consider replacing him. Dick motioned and Lewis seconded the removal of Ed as Western VP. This passed.

Real had a good conversation with Mike Worthley at the Augusta Sportsman's show. He hopes more Western clubs will come back to ATV ME.

Dennis brought up that he would like to see more enforcement on trails. He feels ATV ME needs to push for stricter trail enforcement. There are too many riding early in the season, before trails are open and not obeying the closed trails.

John advised that the Game Warden in his area said that if they are habitual offenders, he can confiscate the machine for 48 hours. Then the person has to pay the towing fees etc to get the machine out of impound.

Dick attending the tourism meeting in his area last month. They kept bringing up snowmobile numbers. Dick spoke up and mentioned the differences between ATV and snowmobile revenue. They didn't realize ATVs were so big.

Lunch break 11:31 to 12:02

Hosting Club 50/50 – Daryl Friedman won and gave it back to the club.

Helmet Award: none

Club Door Prizes: none

Pot of Gold drawing – Airline Swamp Donkeys won but no one from there was in attendance so the pot goes to \$250 next meeting.

Next Meeting will be 8/20/2022 and supposed to be in Central region. Working on a place to hold meeting.

Motion to adjourn – at 12:08 Mike motioned, and Dick seconded the adjournment where there was no more business to discuss. Voted and passed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Friedman  
Secretary, ATV Maine