

## **Skedaddle Ridge Trails People Inc.**

### **Minutes: July 2020**

The July 30th meeting was held at 7:00 PM at the Mount Pleasant Community Center with 15 members present. This is the first Club meeting held since January due to Covid-19 restrictions and protocol practices were followed.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President Bob Stokes chaired the meeting. The Chair asked if there were members who required a Thinking of You card from the Club and it was suggested Darlene Trecartin, due to an accident, should receive a card.

**Minutes:** Moved by Stirling, seconded by Eugene, "The January minutes of both the Club and Directors meeting of June 24<sup>th</sup> are approved as presented." Carried

**Treasurer's Report:** Allison presented the Treasurer's report. Moved by Allison, seconded by Doug, "The treasurer's report is accepted as presented." Carried

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Kenneth Rest Area:** It was noted the toilet at this rest area has been vandalized on a number of occasions and repairs undertaken. The toilet has once again been vandalized. It was suggested due to Club cost, the repairs not be made at this time, however, it was indicated if a member should know of a toilet that will meet the needs be located and donated, it will be placed at this location.
2. **Trail Maintenance:** It was noted the trail inspections undertaken to date have identified the Howard Brook Bridge requires a new deck which will be replaced when volunteers are available.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Membership Numbers:** It was noted the Skedaddle numbers are a bit lower this year for similar time period of 2019. It was felt with earlier trail closures due to fire hazard, Covid restrictions, etc. this may have affected the current numbers.
2. **Club Events:** Due to Covid-19, all previously scheduled rallies, corn boils, night runs and other fun events will be cancelled until further notice.
3. **Nashwaak Valley Club:** It was noted that this Club is proposing a connection trail to Skedaddle Ridge Club area and a proposed route has been drafted, which will connect a bit north of the proposed Sisson Mine area. More information will follow.
4. **New Quad NB Website:** The name Quad NB replaces the former NB ATV Federation. This was announced previously by the Provincial Board of Directors. It was noted an aggressive marketing, image and branding platform is underway. A new Quad NB website has been created to replace the former NBATVF site. During the discussion, several concerns were expressed, one being the website map and difficulty in understanding plus the new trail numbering system. Bob explained the rationale for this showing the new map. It was referenced the #10 Provincial trail in our Club area is now identified as trail #25 which originates in the St. Leonard area and extends toward McAdam area. To rectify the current #10 installed signs, it was suggested to purchase #25 decals and these be placed onto the current #10 signs to reduce costs and labour. This new website is still undergoing upgrading to address recommendations being received from other Clubs and the integration of user friendly platforms. Trail Themes was discussed to identify Skedaddle routes for outdoor ATV enthusiasts indicating distance on the Skedaddle map, etc.
5. **New Trails:** Bob informed those present of the approval being received for Quad access on the rail bed from Grand Falls to Perth, across the St. John river to connect with the Victoria Club trail on the east side of the river. The Perth-Andover Municipal Council approved ATV access to their streets for this connection as did the Town of Grand Falls within their Town limits. Club members were informed the Western Valley Regional Service Commission has a Licence of Occupation for the rail bed from Grand Falls to below Woodstock along the St. John River. They have requested the government

consider making this rail bed a multi-use trail. The three Clubs impacted by this request met in June to discuss their request and it was unanimously agreed to support the WVRSC. A letter from Quad NB was forwarded to the respective Ministers indicating their support for this multi-use recommendation. The government to date not responded to the Commission request. Bob provided an update on the Woodstock-Grafton Bridge Span replacement initiative and the discussions currently underway. The three ATV Clubs in this local region have been working very hard as a team to improve the trails and address concerns as they occur.

6. Motorized Unit Operation: Communities, private land-owners and members of the public have expressed concern about the illegal operation of ATV's, motorbikes, trail bikes, golf carts, scooters, cars, trucks, etc. on streets and other non-approved areas. Noise, speed, vandalism, and theft complaints are occurring on a regular basis. Club members and the public are aware it is a small number of individuals who are operating their ATV's illegally and damaging the image of law abiding, trail pass holders who enjoy the outdoors with their families. Members were informed the Off-Road Enforcement Unit are in the area travelling the trails, meeting with the public and working with the Clubs to address the expressed concerns. Several members indicated many complaints would not be expressed if operators drove responsibly and not at all hours of the night. It was noted fines are being issued to those operators who do not have a trail pass, have no insurance or registration and not wearing proper protective equipment.

7. Land Owner Agreement: Quad NB recently signed an Agreement with Acadia Timber to access their properties for trail access.

Minutes taken by Stirling Kent

**Note: At the Director's meeting, due to Covid-19, it was recommended the 2019 Officers of the Club remain in their current position for 2020.**

**Next meeting: Thurs. Aug. 27, 2020**

**ATTENTION: If a Quad operator identifies a safety hazard or problem that requires urgent attention, they should report these to the Club immediately. Members are requested to mark these areas to alert others of an impending danger.**