

Vilas County Snowmobile Trail Safety Committee Minutes

20 February 2014

Members Present: Ralph Sitzberger, Chair
 Carolyn Ritter, Vice Chair
 Dale Mayo, Parks & Recreation Administrator
 Gerard Ritter, VC Sheriff's Dept.
 Tim Price, DNR
 Cindy Burzinski, VC Tourism/Publicity
 Gina Egan, VC Public Health
 Rocky Cafferella, VC Snowmobile Alliance President
 Mike Keintz, Stan Guif, Leo Crawley, VC Snowmobile Alliance Reps

Members Excused: Holly Tomlanovich

Others Present: Ray Wolfe, DNR
 Con Valkenaar, Adm Secy, VC Forestry Dept.
 Jason Hilger, VC Finance Director
 Ken Anderson, Media

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Sitzberger, who advised that this was a public meeting and that notification of the meeting with the agenda was sent to the Committee members, the County Board Chairman, the Vilas County Clerk, the Vilas County Corporation Counsel, the Vilas County News-Review, the Lakeland Times, FYI Wisconsin, Radio Stations WRJO and Coyote 93.7, and the Northwoods River News. The notice and agenda were also posted on the Courthouse and Forestry Department bulletin boards. This notification was verified by Dale Mayo.

- 1) Motion by Cafferella, seconded by Ritter, to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Ritter, seconded by Crawley to approve the minutes of the 16 January 2014 meeting with the following corrections: under **Advertising, Public Relations** – paragraph #2, first sentence amended to read: "...TIN system Mayo will work on..." Third paragraph, same section, first sentence amended to read: "...Vilas County Tourism/Publicity possibly develop a creative design for the 2014-2015 season." Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Budget Report: No problems to report. Mayo advised that donations to the Committee were received from the following: Arbor Vitae Cross Country Cruisers (\$250.00) and Land O'Lakes Frosty Club (\$200.00). These funds will be used at the discretion of the Committee to enhance snowmobile trail safety. C. Ritter volunteered to contact various local media in an effort to gain public recognition for the contributions of the local snowmobile clubs and the Committee and their ongoing efforts to improve snowmobile trail safety.
- 4) Public Health Report: Egan advised that the \$3,400.00 donation from the County per the request of the Public Health Committee (discussed at the 16 January meeting) was presented to DNR Warden Price. These funds will be used toward the expense of the mobile safety billboard.

- 5) DNR Report: Price gave an update of the progress of the mobile billboard. He will start the bidding process for the trailer, which he has been advised will cost around \$14,500.00. Price has arranged to partner with other agencies/departments for use of the trailer, which has helped with the cost. He advised that with the donation from Public Health, there is enough to go ahead with the trailer process, without taking a \$500.00 donation from the Committee. This frees up those funds for other projects, possibly coasters and/or flyers.
- 6) Tourism/Publicity Report: Burzinski updated the Committee. She has gathered information about advertising coasters to be used at local establishments which cater to the snowmobiling crowd. Discussion regarding prices and slogans for the coasters. "Ride Right" Ride Safe – Slow Down" is the current choice. Burzinski will gather more information and present it to the Committee along with samples she has ordered, at the next meeting. Committee members will gather information about volume of coasters used in local establishments in order to estimate how many coasters are needed.
- 7) Alliance Report: Crawley reported that the trail counter in Presque Isle at the Rearing Pond registered over 11,000 sleds by 11 February followed by a terrific weekend of snowmobiling on the Presque Isle trails.
- 8) Law Enforcement Report: G. Ritter reported between 80 and 90 hours of snowmobile trail patrol so far for the season. 16 citations were issued along with some written warnings. On 9 February there was a serious injury resulting from a snowmobile accident in St. Germain-Sayner area. Wolfe advised that he did some assists, issued citations & warnings, and put in 200 miles and about 50 hours of time plus he taught a snowmobile safety class.
- 9) Parks & Recreation Administrator Report: Mayo advised that he is working with Oneida and Iron Counties on a possible cooperative agreement to share public service announcement (PSA) expenses for WJFW Channel 12 TV. Incident reports continue to be provided by the Sheriff's Department. Fat Bikes: Mayo advised that the State has banned fat bikes on their cross-country ski and snowmobile trails. Crawley advised that the consensus of the Alliance at their meeting was to approach the STSC to in turn pass onto the Forestry Recreation & Land Committee that the Alliance would like to see fat bikes banned from snowmobile trails. Discussion. Motion by Caffarella, seconded by Keintz, to make a recommendation that the Forestry Recreation & Land Committee consider banning fat bikes off of the snowmobile trails in Vilas County. Motion carried unanimously. This item will be placed on the Forestry Committee agenda for 5 March 2014.
- 10) Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting of the Snowmobile Trail Safety Committee will be 28 March 2014, 9:00 a.m. at the Courthouse Conference Rooms. Mayo & Crawley are excused for other commitments. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.