New England Sled Dog Club Spring 2021 Meeting

In Attendance: Steve Davis, Brandon Taylor, Laura Hayes, Asa Szegvari, Stephen Schifani, Doug Sweeny, Carissa Daniells, Nova Clifford, Rachael Bryar Colbath, Raelyn Cottrell, Isabella Cottrell, Rachel Medina and Emily Golomb. Meeting held virtually via videoconference.

Rachael calls to order at 4:12. Seconded by Brandon and Raelyn, Rachael welcomes all to the meeting.

TREASURY REPORT

Rachael points out that we have ample funds and can settle open balances with ISDRA (<$1,000) but Carissa will have her name added to the account in order to cut any checks. Rachael says there is about $2,300 total in the account and that adding Carrisa's name to the account will require proof of 501(c)(3) status from the IRS or Carrisa, Rachael and Kelly (past treasurer) must go to the bank together and sign documents. Note that Rayleyn still has the checkbook.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lots of committees were made but nothing happened largely due to COVID and the inability to gather and have races/events.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Winter races: Tamworth can still happen, the new organizer seems proactive and willing to promote the race. Rachael mentions that we can probably hold a race without going onto the lake if the lake isn't frozen, she also states that the road will not be plowed again. Rachael is the initial point person for any races at King Pine and mentions that it is possible to hold a small on snow race however no sleds will be allowed because of concern for possible damage to the Nordic trails by sled brakes. It is also possible/likely to do a canicross race. Nova mentions that it's possible to work with Downeast Sled Dog Club and hold a series of circuit races or something just for fun. Nova suggests a canicross and bikejor or another small event. Rachael points out King Pine is basically ready for any small, non-rig dryland event.

Emily asked about a second dryland race in Auburn. Rachael said it's probably fine. Emily points out that a second spring dryland race might be a good hedge against lack of snow. Racahel says it can be tough given poor insurance coverage. Steve asks about the possibility of two consecutive races at Auburn but Rachael points out that the Auburn Waterworks may not be amenable to hosting twice for a variety of reasons (mostly disruption of access to other trail users).

Carissa asked if there should be action before the Fall meeting and if we should form committees but it is decided that it's probably not necessary at this point

Asa posed the question as to whether or not to vote in new board members. Brandon as Secretary casts one vote for the membership. Motion passes.

Asa suggests board only meetings prior to the Fall meeting. Nova makes a motion to have two board meetings, August and December. Motion passes. These meetings will be used to plan the races

Club Trailer: Rachael points out that it's more of a liability at this point. The trailer sits in her yard and we are unsure if it's roadworthy. Carissa wants to vote on selling the trailer. Asa points out that it might be easier to sell the trailer to Rachael for $1 and let her offload it. Raelynn makes a motion to sell the trailer to Rachael for $1 and allow her to reimburse herself. Motion passes unanimously. Brandon will supply a bill of sale for the trailer.

Rachael mentions the possibility of doing an inexpensive rabies clinic run by a local (western ME) veterinarian. Rachael will get minimum participant requirements from the vet.

It is mentioned that important documents should be online. Asa suggests starting a Google Drive to drop documents on a shared drive. Carissa mentions that in regards to Google Drive documents, it's better to have an update in the Google Doc or meeting minutes. Anything lengthy is better to put into a document rather than an online chat.

Raelynn suggests pulling club documents off the state of NH website to see what the current state is.

Doug points out there's no mechanism to handle unruly people at races, i.e. racers yelling at trail help. Nova says that "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" is usually baked into the rules. Nova suggests having a point person, we think this is a good idea.

Nova recommends changing bylaws so that board positions are staggered to avoid massive turnover. Discussion will be tabled until a later date.

Rachael mentions that end of season race awards (trophies) are at her house. This is something to think about long term as it's tough to do a series without many races.

Morrisville Race: Rachael talked to the town, they are OK with a 4 mile loop (shorter option) which would avoid the road crossing.

ACTION ITEMS

Kelly McGrath, Rachael and Carissa will meet so they can go to the bank and have Carissa's name added to our account. This should be done at least one month prior to an ISDRA sanctioned event. This is preferable for waiting for proof of 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

Rachael must submit a form to the Auburn waterworks for the dryland race, Rachael will contact King Pine at the same time to see if they are still willing to host on snow and dryland races.

Rachael will sell the club trailer and keep ~$600 to reimburse herself for past repair expenses. Brandon will make a bill of sale for $1 to Rachael.

Pull 501(c)(3) documents from the State of NH website to see what the current state is in order to update bylaws. Check the Secretary of State Website, look up the club name. Possible Corporation Search.

Asa or Carissa to set up a club email account (Gmail) and use a shared drive to store documents.

File annual reports with the state to make sure the club is up to date. Rachael will ask her father about this and many other issues. (Nova motions that we table this discussion).

ADDENDUMS to bylaws:

All pertinent social media / Facebook discussion goes into Google Drive or other form of web based storage for electronic easy access. Motion passses.

Nova makes motion to adjourn, Raelyn seconds

Adjourned at 6:03