

Minutes from the fall board meeting of St. Albans Nordic.

All voting board members were present, plus Scott Magnan was attending to give his input.

Item 1: Election of Brook Hodgeman to the board

Brook was elected to the board by a unanimous vote.

Item 2: Statement of the overall vision of the board.

Tyler Magnan made an opening statement that the overall goal of this organization is to increase participation in the sport across all generations in the community. The sport has been held together in this area by a small handful of people, and we need a pool of other people to contribute and step into larger roles if one of us leaves the area or can't contribute for other reasons. Other board members concurred.

During the conversation, a number of names of other community members came up that seem very motivated to promote the sport. All board members were encouraged to reach out to these people to be involved with our organization.

Item 3: Finances

We have \$681.93 in our checking account, and \$5.00 in our savings account, all from donations.

Item 4: Hard'ack relationship

Tyler gave a briefing on our relationship with the Rec Department. It is really good at the moment. They seem enthusiastic about reciprocating our efforts, and have put more effort into trail maintenance this summer. We have approval for some new trails at Hard'ack, and we will chip away at finding the resources to both polish up the current trails and build new ones.

Item 5: Winter priorities

Tyler suggested that our top priority should be increasing public awareness of the organization and raising income through various events and programs. He volunteered to head up direction of some low key races and learn to ski clinics.

The races would reach out to local clubs with experienced/elite level racers. It was pointed out that we might turn off local novices by doing this, and Tyler agreed that we should have separate races to decrease the intimidation factor. Brook suggested that the elite racers could do some kind of clinic in between their race and the novice race, and all members agreed that would be a great thing to do. The dates of these events are TBD, but the goal is to have one in late January, and one in late February.

The clinics will be for teens and adults only as we have a program for kids through the rec department. Also, having kids and adults together requires more instructor staffing which may be difficult to find. Mike suggested we try to have clinics early in the season, especially if we want to encourage participation in races later on. Everyone agreed this made sense if snow conditions are okay and we can find instructors.

Tyler suggested we do both clinics and races through our own organization as opposed to doing these through the rec department. There are added expenses with this, but it makes it

easier to handle registration, and it also allows us to easily change venues if necessary. One added expense is liability insurance, which was quoted at \$350, and covers us for events of this type. Hard'ack might charge us a rental fee, which we need to negotiate.

The use of Doc's land for these events is questionable. Tyler plans to have a conversation with him soon to determine if this is feasible. We also discussed the issue of Doc's trails not being open to the public, and how best to manage that. That will be further discussed after talking to Doc.

Scott Magnan suggested a weekly night racing series, similar to the races we had 20 years ago. Other venues have had great success with these, and they create a fun community atmosphere, which fits in perfectly with the goals of this organization. Everyone agreed that would be a great thing to have, but nobody volunteered to take on the direction of this type of event.

It was also suggested that we get a sign put up at Hard'ack to promote the organization. Tyler said he would look into this possibility.

Item 6: Trail Work

Tyler noted that the organization does not have any money to put into this at the moment. In regards to Doc's, Scott's machine will be available. Scott mentioned that it would be good to find ways to take the load off the machine, especially in deep snow. Brook mentioned that he thought he saw an old homemade groomer up there somewhere that may help with this, and volunteered to look into it.

Scott's loader tractor is out of commission for snow farming, but Doc has mentioned we could use his loader or snowblower tractor for this. We all agreed the organization could spend money to provide fuel for this. Brook said we could probably use his fathers small tractor for some work as well, with the same deal of us providing fuel.

Tyler will continue to head up shoveling efforts as he has the last couple of years.

In regard to Hard'ack, Mike Cain is still the head groomer there. Brook and Tyler volunteered to supplement Mike's efforts. Tyler will be posting trail condition updates on the website as much as possible. We are going to make an effort to make sure the weekend grooming at Hard'ack is top notch this year to increase public interest.

The future prospects of snow farming at Hard'ack were discussed. The fields at hard'ack can be farmed. This requires a loading tractor to load small trucks which can drive out on the trails, or it can be pushed onto the trails at the meadow's edge. As Mike noted, and all agreed, some parts of the meadows are wet, and we would need to be careful not to tear up the grass. We don't have the resources to do it this year, but all the interested parties at Hard'ack seem to be okay with this.

Tyler brought up the issues with snowmaking at Hard'ack. The president of the Hard'ack board would love to have snowmaking on the nordic trails. Besides the infrastructure needed to make this happen, they are very limited on water usage. Scott suggested the idea of bringing in water trucks, and some local connections with syrup makers were mentioned as possible trucking candidates. Scott volunteered to explore this further, and Tyler will try to connect him with the Hard'ack board to discuss further.

Tyler said the roller at Hard'ack needs repair. He will seek out replacement parts, and Perry said he might have a spare piece that we could use. Scott volunteered his shop as a place to do the repair, but he can't be in charge of doing the work.

Item 7: Wax service

We can offer wax service to the public at Scott Magnan's shop. There would be a fee for the service. Tyler and Mike said they can both perform the service. Scott said people can also pay a small fee to use the shop and do the work themselves, but coordinating a time for that can be difficult. The details will be worked out later.

Item 8: Ski Lease

Scott has proposed turning over his ski lease program to this organization. Tyler pointed out that if we do that, the program would have to be open to the public, and not give special treatment to the high school team. It was determined that few if any people would take up this offer outside of the high school team, so we could probably handle that this year without hindering the usefulness to the high school team. Scott mentioned there are still some question marks about the legal and financial transfer of the equipment to our organization, so that will need to be sorted out.

Tyler also pointed out that we are not yet tax exempt, so sales tax would have to be charged on rentals if done through our organization.

Scott also wanted to make sure the program remained local, and the board assured him that it would only be available to the local community.

Mike suggested we look into pricing offered by retail stores, and set our prices slightly lower. All agreed that we can offer a more personalized approach, and provide better fitting equipment than some of these retail stores, but we should make sure we have enough income to consistently update our fleet of equipment.

Mike also raised the question of how we make sure we get equipment back at the end of the season. We currently do not have the ability to take credit card payments on this sort of transaction. Mike also pointed out that credit cards by themselves are not a fool proof plan as people change cards or cancel them, or they expire. Tyler suggested an ID, address, and a contract to help track people down.

Item 9: Paperwork

Tyler expressed his desire to get help with the financial and legal responsibilities of the organization. We may have money to hire someone for this at the end of the season, but multiple names were brought up to hopefully help us find some volunteer consultation.