

BRULE VALLEY SKI CLUB – Annual Membership/Board Members Meeting.

December 14, 2013. Attendees: Cordell Manz, Bob Cragin, Greg St. Onge, and Al Klein
From the state forest: Dave Schulz and Dan Kephart.

Draft Minutes until approved.

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm.

Election of Officers: Cordell Manz, Bob Cragin, and Greg St. Onge were re-elected as club President, Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively. Al Klein was elected to the Board Member at Large position that had been vacated by Gary Rutledge. The Secretary position was not filled at this time, due to no nominations.

Secretary's Report: Cordell read the minutes from the Spring Board Members meeting on May 14, 2013 at Rapids Riverside, submitted by Rondi Watson. Cordell motioned to approve with changes made to reflect the correct person's attending, Greg seconded – passed unanimously.

The vacant secretary position was discussed with ideas on who to ask to fill the vacancy for this year. Cordell would also put a request in his newsletter article to membership for someone to volunteer as secretary. Main duties for Secretary: Attend two meetings per year, send "Thank you card-receipts" for membership, and send notices to membership for meetings potentially. This has been made easier now thru email, since most members have email, with a few exceptions. It was noted that we need to get "thank you" cards back from Rondi Watson, who stepped down from her position as Secretary. Cordell agreed to write up the minutes from this meeting, with no club secretary at present.

Treasurer Report: Greg St. Onge submitted a detailed treasurer's report that covered club expenses and income from the past year. Current balance is \$20,500.62 with money in cd's, checking and savings. The main expenses were for purchases of gasoline to groom ski trails (\$1667.74), money donated towards buying a cab for one of Primary income was from the Riverview Ski Loppet was \$4170 and membership fees 1740 (with donations). Club members can see the entire treasurer's report in the forthcoming newsletter. Cordell motioned to approve the report and Al seconded: unanimous approval.

At this time, Dave Schulz also brought up the idea to approach the Brule Lions Club at this time to see if they would want our help with the annual running race they hold on the Afterhours trails in August. The ski club divides income from our ski race 50:50 with the Lions Club, since they provide insurance for the race and food. They have offered to take less in the past, but we have kept the current format to split income. Dave offered that if we help with their running race (possibly time the race/provide volunteers), we could perhaps share income with them. We agreed that we could approach the Lions Club with this potential idea at their winter meeting, which we usually attend in February prior to the Riverview Loppet.

State Forest Update: Ranger Kevin Feind had previously written a detailed email on all improvements and work done this fall on the ski trail. There were a considerable number of improvements made including pushing brush back on trails for wider grooming. This document will be an article in the newsletter. Dave Schulz also reported that the state forest bought a new Ginzu groomer that is wider than others we've had, which should help grooming trails to make two passes, instead of three. Skier usage at the trail last year was approximately 400 annual passes sold, 1000-1200 daily passes. A busy Saturday can have up to 150 skiers. Usage at the ski trail is equal to the Brule River campgrounds in summer for comparison.

The state forest will be building a new warming shelter, 24x36 in size to replace the current shelter next year, or the following if things go as expected with funding. The current shelter was re-modeled by the ski club and forest staff in about 2003-04. Thanks to Ranger Kevin Feind who put in many hours on the project for a new shelter. It was noted that Kevin will be leaving the state forest for a new position with Pattison State Park. The club thanks Kevin for all his hard work and dedication to the ski trail. Cordell motioned that the ski club get Kevin a gift for his contributions to skiing at Afterhours. Greg seconded, passing unanimously. In addition to Dan Kephart, the state forest has hired Phil Brown as a new ranger, and will also be hiring another ranger to replace Kevin.

Season calendar: Learn to Ski dates are Saturday, January 4 and Sunday, February 2 (Starting at 12:30). The Candlelight Ski Night is Saturday, February 8 and the Riverview Loppet will be Saturday, March 1. Volunteers/Instructors and skiers renting/needng skis for Learn to Ski Days should arrive by at least 12:15. Instructors are needed this year.

Newsletter: Linda Hobbs as agreed to do the newsletter this year. Cordell motioned we would pay \$100 and Al seconded to have her do the newsletter, passing unanimously. Any articles need to be in ASAP.

Other business: Briefly discussed awards and door prizes for the ski race. The Brule State Forest has agreed to donate a State Park Vehicle Pass sticker and also a State Trail Pass as door prize drawings for our ski race. Gary Rutledge has agreed to make awards once again this year for the race that the club can pay for. He has made these the previous two years, donated money back to the club. Note: Thanks to Gary for his great service the past years on the ski club board, and good luck in his move to Iowa!

We discussed the success of the ski club's Facebook Page ("Brule Valley Ski Club and Afterhours Ski Trail") and the number of people it appears to reach or view it. Also, the new website (brulexcski.com) which was designed by Scott Nesvold of Washburn is an excellent improvement over the old site, and user friendly for updates. Scott has agreed to be the webmaster for our site. As old business, we also talked briefly about looking into the Paypal system, so members could join the club online, or sign up for the ski race with easier payment, but we don't know if this is viable or not for the club.

Meeting Adjourned at ~ 4:30.