

## Minutes from September 29, 2023 Meeting- Kathie's edits

The meeting was held at the After Hours (AH) chalet and those in attendance were Bob Cragin, Jon Thralow, Jon Jurek, Kathie Culhane, Greg St. Onge and Louise Beyea. Al Klein joined by phone. The purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the Devil's Hole (DH) survey and decide the next steps for the BVSC.

37 people replied to the survey which represents about half of the current BVSC members that were invited to participate in the survey. Question #3 on the survey states: Please Indicate your level of support with the proposal. 12 members (32%) supported enthusiastically, 9 members (24%) support with concern, 3 members (5%) were neutral and 14 members (38%) do not support the DH proposal. We discussed the significance of "support with concerns" responses. If we combined with support enthusiastically, then a total of 21 people (55%) support and 14 (38%) do not support. If we split them into ½ support and ½ not in support, then 16.5 (45%) support and 18.5 (50%) do not support. Either way, about half the club is in favor and half is not and the concerns need to be addressed.

Question #5 on the survey asks: If the DNR creates a cross-country ski course at DH how often can you help? 43.2% replied None, 32.4% replied Occasionally, 10.8% replied Twice a month, 10.8% replied Weekly and 2.7% replied Several times a week. It was noted that of the 21 people willing to help, 20 were in support of the proposal.

A further breakdown of the responses reveals that of those 12 members that Enthusiastically Support the DH proposal when they were asked how often they can help, one member replied None, 6 members replied Occasionally, 2 members replied Twice a month, 2 members replied weekly and only one of the Enthusiastic Supporters replied Several times a week. A further breakdown of the 9 members that replied Support with concerns reveals that 5 members replied they will help Occasionally, 2 members replied they will help Twice a month and 2 members replied they will help Weekly.

Question #4 asks: Do you support the BVSC providing partial funding for DNR to hire a part-time employee for grooming ski trails in the winter? This person would only work in December to March. 31.4% replied No, 68.6% replied yes. Jon Jurek felt this question was misleading since it does not specify where the grooming will take place and some members may have been misled to think this will be at After Hours. Jon Jurek also stated that this question was added to the survey after the meeting on September 9 and even though it was put in an email by Kathie for approval the timeline between the email and this question being added to the survey was too short for any discussion.

Question #6 asks What can you help with? Members could choose from a variety of 9 different categories 1)Planning a track 2) Creating a track 3) Grooming 4)Keeping the building clean 5)Maintaining the machines 6) Mowing the trails 7)Paying for gas or other needs 8) None 9) Other. 2 members did not respond to this question. The results are somewhat difficult to interpret since members could select more than one option. However the largest groups were 29.4%(10 members) responded None and 14.7% (5 members) responded Paying for gas or other needs. One member replied they would help at AH. Other members said they would help with a variety tasks.

Bob Cragin, Jon Thralow and Jon Jurek all would like to see a new ski club formed along with respective board members for the DH project and all three stated they will not assume Board member responsibilities for the DH. The primary concerns for this decision were the lack of volunteer help, the potential financial drain on the BVSC when entering into an agreement with the DNR for the DH and the personal time involved with running two ski areas. Kathie Culhane and Al Klein are in favor of the BVSC backing the DH project.

It was decided that the proposal drafted at the September 9 meeting and considered by members in the survey, will be sent to the DNR along with the results of the membership survey. Jon Jurek will speak with Dan Kephart regarding whom to send these. We agreed this will be a noncommittal proposal for the time being and there will still be a YES or NO vote by the current members of the BVSC for the development of the DH down the road, after further discussion with DNR, since we do

not know what DNR's response will be. Jon Jurek wanted the vote to be restricted to the members that took the time to fill out the survey, Kathie wanted the vote to be open to all current members. No decision was reached on who can vote. The initial amount for year 1 offered to the DNR in the proposal was \$5000.

We agreed that all members should have access to the survey results. Kathie had sent the initial collated results document to everyone before the meetings, which did not have individual names connected with specific replies or comments. Jon would like people to know who said what. It was decided that Kathie would send the spreadsheet with individual results to the Board. (Done), and then the Board can decide what further actions to take.

We discussed a few other items:

We discussed funding a zoom meeting since the free zoom meetings only last 40 minutes. The BVSC will fund a one year trial period and re-access the utilization in a year.

- We had a learning curve with the Google forms survey, which could help in the future; perhaps we can survey members about other items such as volunteering for help at AH.
- The group reviewing the old by-laws has not yet met but will; Kathie will set up a google shared drive to help the process.
- Other BVSC business needs to be attended to, including the ski race.
- The agenda was set for next meeting.
- Work day on Oct 14 will start at 1PM.

The next meeting will be on October 14, 2023 at 4:00 at the AH chalet.

#### ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS 10-9-2023

Since the preparation of these minutes on September 30, there have been some additional considerations develop. Jon J spoke with Dan Kephart, DNR Property Manager for the Brule River State Forest, regarding contact information for a proposal. Dan feels a new Ski Club would not be the best way to proceed but instead forming a "friends of group" would be a better way to proceed with the DH since there is potential for tapping into more state money as a friends of group vs a ski club. Al Klein was also not present at the meeting due to illness but joined via telephone. Al would like to be present for a vote. It appears that all BVSC Board members will be present at the October 14 meeting and at that time there will be a Board Member vote to determine if the current BVSC will be moving forward with any development, with or without the cabin, at the Devil's Hole. The DNR will then be informed of the club's decision so the DNR can hold a public meeting later this fall or winter.