**DRAFT Minutes of BVSC Board Meeting- April 21, 2925**

**Present from BVSC:**  
Linda Hobbs, President  
Bob Cragin, Vice President  
Al Klein, Treasurer  
Greg St. Onge, member-at-large  
Jon Thralow, member, for report about Bike Trail

**Absent** (as no internet): Kathie Culhane-Pera, Secretary

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| **Topic** | **Report- Discussion** | **Decision** |
| **Old Business** | | |
| **Secretary’s report** | Deferred  Need approval of previous minutes | Kathie will send email.  People can approve minutes by email. |
| **Treasurer’s report** | We reviewed and approved Treasurer’s report that Tammy had sent. See attached.  A few highlights:  - Earnings from the race: $934.01. The timer gave us a discount, only paid $144. Some differences between the Race Report and Treasurer report were explained (i.e., plaques were paid for last year).  - We offered a new process for payment this year- a Pay Pal account. Our fee to them is less than a fee for a credit card company. Example, for a $25 charge, we received $23.64, so paid $1. 36. For our race event, we paid $12 to Paypal.  - Lions’ Club is not charging us for insurance.  -Amount on savings account.  - CD- Greg got an improved rate- - can we move the $10K before due, May 6th. – will follow up this week-  BVSC Membership: We have 77 members: 49 annual, 1 business, 27 lifetime. It seemed that not everyone renewed this year. Perhaps we could send reminders. (now or future?) We briefly discussed how to encourage members to rejoin, or new people to join. Their motivation could be to support the trails, ski lessons, etc. (Note: We did not discuss previous ideas, like offering ski logo merchandise.) | Tammy will re-invest CD (Or hold to pay for ski trails? But we have funds in checking account to do that.) |
| **River View Loppet Race Report** | We reviewed Als Race Director Report -see attached. While low turn out, we were glad we held it. We discussed items to improve:  1.DATE: Third Saturday in January is 1/17/ 2026 this year.  2. We discussed setting a cancelled / reschedule date, so people know in advance, but dates are hard to choose, as some race is on every weekend. If first March weekend: 3/1 is Pepsi Challenge. If second Saturday in March-3/8/2026, that is Bear Chase weekend (NOTE: and the North Shore started Ski North Ultra) We discussed not rescheduling; if cancelled, then cancelled. Did we decide?  3. Advertise: How can we increase publicity?  Increase brochures -print, distribute, social media, etc. -  4. Pasties were decided last minute. Definitely a plus.  5. Awards were a bit haphazard, as no one was scheduled, and no definite time to award.  6. Silent Auction- we received $. . We didn’t have any competitive bids during the race, and we opened it up to members after the event. Left over items in Greg’s garage: Carhart jacket, two pairs of skis, and miscellaneous items. For next year, we could: a. add smaller items and non-ski items b. open it up to club members and the public before the race, advertise ahead of time, get bids before. Challenge: What if race is cancelled?  7. Overall, we could return to our historical lunch at the Townhall- so people can sit and talk, have awards presentations. Also, could add door prices, like maple syrup- previously, we had pulled names. But maybe people won’t wait around?   DEFINITELY: have more snow by 1/17/2026! | 1. 1/17/2026  2. Maybe a cancellation date or maybe not.    6. Make these adjustments to silent auction items  7. Maybe have food/ awards/ door prices/ final silent auction in Brule Townhall after race. |
| **Ski lessons** | In 2025, the date was changed due to low snow and then we only had two people show up on the set date. We discussed another option: offer individual lessons available to people. Then interested people could contact us individually- and we arrange to meet them individually. We liked the flexibility but also liked the group offering.  For liability, we will use a form that acknowledges they are taking their own risks. Greg said we have had a form. We should review, update if needed and make available.  (We noted that Board members are covered for Board-related activities. And we noted that if there is gross negligence, it may not stand up in court, but it is a good practice. deterrent.) | We will offer both- one group session and individual lessons.  Will organize this winter, along with waiver form. |
| **Dog poop stations** | We will buy from Amazon, put onto two posts, one a beginning of skijoring trail and one at the warming hut. | Linda/ Tammy will order.  Who will post?  Need DNR approval? |
| **New Business** | | |
| **Bike Trails** | Report: Jon J, Jon T, and Gary Mattson have been working with DNR to complete the planned expansion of the bike trail. They flagged the last 4 miles, from end of current trail, along river, and up to the cabin, which now has 9 corners. See Map.   Budget: We may need $4-5,000 to complete it, about $1000/ mile. The exact amount is uncertain because one rocky area might need a bridge or wooden roadway and won’t know until they get to work on it. We want help from the evacuation company Sorrings (spelling?) (not Lake Effect) that helped last year.  Jon J and Jon T brought fat bikers from NCAA to ride on the AH trails, review the plans, and consider a donation. The NCAA members were impressed and donated $1000.  We discussed how much money to donate- all remaining $3-4,000, or split with DNR, perhaps $1,500 each. We decided to approach DNR (see below). If they don’t have funds, we would reconsider paying the whole amount ourselves. But they should have some funds, since they will be able to capture bike trail user fees.  Timeframe? This summer. Best to keep closed now, due to wet soil. But DNR has not been willing to close it or add signs about closing. Ultimately, will need signage and will need to advertise 11 miles of bike trails. | We’ll communicate with DNR: Linda will send email. Bob will talk with Gervais.  Tammy will hold onto the CD money that is coming due in June. |
| **Skijoring trail** | This year we will focus on Phase 2- hire and use the mulcher from Sorrings (spelling?) to work on the trail section that we started and avoid the wetland section that needs the bridge. We wonder if that has been flagged.  A future Phase 3 would include the bridge, as we understand DNR is not considering the bridge this year. We don’t know the dimensions or cost of the bridge. We discussed whether we would coordinate timing with machines for bike trail, but maybe not, as we could be using different machines.  We will combine our discussions with the DNR about working and funding for both the bike and skijoring trail. We discussed how best to communicate with DNR. Linda reached out to Gervais already this spring about the skijoring trail but has not heard back. We would ask them how much money they have available and then we would match it. As with bike trails, we could donate $1500 and match with DNR, or if needed, we could pay the entire amount ourselves. We could spend $3-5000 total on trail expansion.  Alternatively, we could raise funds: ask for donations/ grants from local partners, do a fundraiser, hold a trail event. Noted: Lions Club has their trail run and chicken BBQ in August. | We’ll communicate with DNR: Linda will send email. Bob will talk with Gervais.  Tammy will hold onto the CD money that is coming due in June. |
| **Other DNR items** | 1.Signage. Still need better trail signs, which is in the DNR future plans. Linda suggested with create a sub-committee to work with Matt. Someone suggested we ask Jon J since he has good rapport, and since we will need signs for bike trail as well as all trails: ski, and skijoring, snowshoeing,  Someone else- Linda will ask around- or she will.  2. How best to communicate with them? Linda sent an email and a text to Gervais before the meeting and had not heard. We could revisit the MOU with DNR, which we had drafted one and presented to them to review. Will need to discuss with them again. We wondered how other organizations work with DNR.  3. Future plans mentioned 6 Corner Cabin, seemed interested in not moving the cabin- maybe want to keep it, an ask/ not ask? for a variance to keep it- or build others. We could be pro=active- send a letter and ask | 1.Create sub-committee for signage.  2.Linda will ask other orgs about their processes, perhaps MOU.  3.Linda will draft a letter- |
| **Merchandise** | 1.Winter ski merchandise was “successful’ or not? How note success? Note, Kathie had a report but she was not available for the meeting. See attached. 2. Three season merchandise. We could order T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, billed caps, etc. Perhaps cotton and not polyester. | Kathie will send report.  Tammy will pursue with a sub-committee. |
| **Future items** | 1. Shall we have a 5 K race? A dog walk? Skijoring Trail Tour? The NWHS cross country team practices at AH.  2. Maybe Lions Club could adjust their race route and include part of skijoring trail- August-   3. Add another geocashing event, including skijoring trail   4. Startline Services. Elizabeth Holland (owner) loved our newsletter, advertised our race and donated a pair of skin skis to Silent Auction. They are interested in sponsoring a wax clinic on their site, or perhaps they could come see us. | 1. To be discussed further.   2. Greg will discuss with Lions Club.  3. Linda will organize 4. Will revisit in fall, to plan for winter |
| **Items for Newsletter- Spring/ Summer- 2025** | Items to add: 1.Weekly outdoors activities- hiking this summer.  2. National Trails Day is first Sat in June. We will host an event: hike, bike with a pot luck. We could emphasize bringing dogs on to the dog skijoring trail.   3. We need a nominating chair, as President and Secretary officers will be up for nominating/ voting Sept 2025. | 1. Kathie will draft/ submit.  2. Linda will organize  3. Linda will include in Newsletter |