

Topsham TrailRiders May Meeting



Date: Monday, May 29, 2023

Location: Exhibition Hall on the Topsham Fairgrounds, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Moody

Devin Favreau

Dee Blanchette

Charlie Parkinson

Board of Directors Present: Rocky League

Ron Dumont

Randy Bickford

Mike Little

Richard Arsenault

Board of Directors absent: Matt Nixon

Tara Crossman

Brad Hoskins

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:33 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 PM

Approximately 29 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet. We had several new faces! 😊 looking forward to having them join our "4 wheeling family"

Secretary Report:

It was nice to be back at our old stomping grounds, in the Exhibition Fall on the Topsham Fairgrounds. We had new faces and new members, welcome. We are only a few weeks away before our 4-wheeling season begins.

Jenny Little emailed a copy of the April minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested for any edits to the minutes that were remitted.

- Motion was made by Dan Parlin to approve the Secretary's report.

- Motion Accepted by Rocky League
- Was passed with no opposition.

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

Memorial Day Parade

Thank you to all of the folks who joined us today for the Topsham / Brunswick Memorial Day Parade. We had a great turnout which was around 13 machines. I've created a summary for feedback and to help plan next year's event. Any additional feedback received from the parade committee or town will be added to that summary.

Municipal Grant Update

During the May 18th , Town of Topsham Selectman meeting, Topsham Trailriders was approved to apply for a municipal grant rather than a traditional ATV grant that we have been doing for numerous years. The application we submitted was for a little over \$45,000.00. We are hoping to hear back from the State of Maine sometime in the very early parts of June. This will be our first year doing it and from what we have been told the first year is the toughest because you are learning the process. Having said that I hope to learn of different grants and TIFs that are out there and we could benefit from.

West Side Park and Ride

As a reminder TTR currently has a trail system that is broken up and we call them the east side and a west side. The park and ride on the east side is the dirt parking lot located in the Mt. Ararat High School and our west side park and ride is the dirt parking lot located near the Nouria Gas station. We were notified late last year that the land was being sold and storage units were going to be built there. The construction was originally scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 30th but when speaking with the new landowner recently he shared that the ground work has been delayed and will begin in 3-4 weeks. The landowner has been very upfront with us that he does want to work with us to establish a new trail that we would use when leaving the West side Park and Ride. Having said that once the ground work begins he has requested that during the time we temporarily close the West side Park and Ride to allow the company the ability to do their work. I along with Charlie and perhaps Matt Nixon will be meeting with the Landowner to arrive to a plan of action. My hope is to minimize the amount of time the access is closed on the West side but also work with the landowner to arrive to a plan that pleases both he and TTR.

Topsham Fair – Volunteer Sign-Up

Topsham Trailriders has access to the Exhibition Hall and other facilities on the Topsham Fairgrounds because of an agreement that we've made with the Topsham Fair. The agreement is during the Topsham Fair we (TTR) cleans the grand stands, Exhibition Hall and other areas in exchange for using this hall for our monthly meetings. During the April meeting, we decided to use SignUpGenius to help coordinate the scheduling for Topsham Fair. This website will help

with the sign-up process for ALL club members and will also help to coordinate reminders. The sign up document will be remitted to each club member in early June so please continue to check your emails and sign up for one shift or two. As a reminder the 2023 Topsham Fair is Tuesday, August 8th to Sunday, August 13th.

Winter Meeting Location

For the past two winters Topsham Trailriders has had to relocate their winter meetings typically beginning in November and continuing until March because of the Exhibition Hall being used as a storage unit. We've been very lucky that Tim Moody has been able to open up the basement below the Saint John's Church. This facility has worked out perfectly and I just wanted to check in to see if we would be able to continue using it this year.

During the meeting Tim Moody advised that the basement of the Church will be completing renovations this upcoming winter season. He has advised that we explore other meeting locations for November to March.

Jenny Little will reach out to Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick as well as the Grange Hall in Topsham to inquire what they have available. Ron Dumont will check with the American Legion located on Columbus Drive.

- Updates about our winter meeting location will be provided during our next meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Tim Moody reported that as of 05/26/2023, we had \$530.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$3,614.19 in the checking account and \$6,329.01 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance \$875.35. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$1,701.46. To help track the funds a new account was opened pertaining to Events/Raffles which has a balance \$549.01

- Motion was made by Mike Little to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda.
- Motion accepted by Tim Williams
- Was passed with no opposition.

During the Treasurer's report Dan Parlin reminded the TTR board and members that in the past TTR has made the webmaster an annual stipend of \$240.00 for maintaining the club website and Facebook page. The current TTR webmaster is Jenny Little.

- Motion was made by Dan Parlin to pay the webmaster a total of \$250 for the 2023 year.
- Motion accepted by Devin Favreau
- Was passed with no opposition

Trail Master's Report: (Charlie Parkinson, Brad Hoskins and James Belanger)

Charlie provided the following update:

Trail Conditions:

All of the ATV trails are currently open.

West Side:

The trails are open but they are soft. Folks should utilize 4x4 drive when riding on the West Side.

Jim Belanger (TTR Winter Trailmaster) was at the meeting and he offered direct feedback on areas that need to be addressed on the West side especially as we get closer to the start of snowmobile season. The work includes better bridging, more culverts and more brush cutting because it would help the groomers significantly in the winter time.

- Mike Little and Charlie will work on scheduling some work parties later in the season specifically working the snowmobile trails that we can access via ATV.

East Side:

This side looks good at the moment but we do have a project for the east side that will require our attention.

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Mat Hill Project

There is a hill on our East Side that a couple years ago we installed mats, made by Right-Way Trail Systems LLC out of New Hampshire on one of our hills on the East Side. These mats have prevented significant trail erosion. Additional mats are needed on that trail so Charlie has recently placed an order for more mats to begin this process. Our vendor advised us that it will take approximately 3 weeks to receive the product. Once we receive the mats, we will need to coordinate a work party to begin the installation process of those mats.

- These mats were budgeted into our Municipal Grant application.
- Charlie shared that it could take up to 3 solid weeks to receive the mats.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties:

- **Sunday, June 4th at 9 am**
 - TTR will be meeting at the West Side Park and Ride to ride and continue exploring the west side.
 - A Facebook event and website event have been created with additional details
- **Sunday, June 11th at 9 am**
 - TTR will be meeting at the East Side Park and Ride to work on preparing this side for the upcoming benefit ride.
 - A Facebook event and website event have been created with additional details

Committee Reports:

We have several committees within the organization and anyone is welcome to help at any time so please consider joining 1 or 2 of them to help the club out. We have the BBQ committee, apparel committee, events committee and the sportsman show committee.

BBQ Committee

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Date of the Event: Saturday, September 30th

Ride: 10 am

Meal: 12 pm

The cost of the tickets will be 20.00 per person / or \$50.00 per family (2 adults & 2 children)

The ride is scheduled to occur on our East side similar to last year.

The event will once again be held in the pulling ring on the Topsham Fairgrounds. A reminder that club members donated all of the food needed for this event which minimized the cost of the event. We will be sending out the sign up to solicit food donations in early to middle of July.

The tickets have been ordered and should arrive soon which means we could start selling them. We will be using the same process as last year which was a google doc to help facilitate the selling process. The link will be created and added to the event so please continue to check the event and share it to help facilitate sales. We will also be remitting an email out to all of the folks who purchased tickets electronically last year to let them know we will be holding this event once again and invite them to join us again this year.

Last month, a sign-up sheet was circulated and I would like to thank all of the folks who signed up. Please remember that this sign-up sheet is NOT for the food portion of the event but rather for helping to facilitate the BBQ. For example, the committee will need assistance with sending out the landowner invites as well as soliciting donations for the event.

- Please let Jenny know if you would like to help.

Apparel Committee

There isn't anything to report at this time. We have a lot of apparel, please contact Jenny if you would like a sweat, shirt, t shirt or hat.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

TTR's riding season is officially here. The first event is an out-of-town ride and it is scheduled for this coming Saturday, June 3rd and we are riding from Pittsfield to the B52 Site in Greenville. Reminder that a group will be meeting at the Topsham McDonalds at 7 am and heading to the Park and Ride on Crosby St. in Pittsfield where we will be departing as close to 8:30 am as we can. Please remember to bring extra fuel and a bagged lunch.

Our next club ride is our first in-town event scheduled for Saturday, June 17th. This is a benefit ride for House in the Woods. The ride is scheduled to occur on our East side of our trail system and Registration for the ride begins at 11:15 and the ride will depart at 12 pm. Help is needed for this event.

Our final ride for June is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th, we will be hosting another out of town event. For this event, we are currently planning on heading to Newport and riding the Corinna loop and the surrounding areas. A group will be leaving from the Topsham McDonalds at 7:00 am and heading to the Newport Park and Ride located across the street from Varney Ford and their address is 237 Moosehead Trail, Newport. We will be leaving from the Newport park and ride at 8:30 am. Please pack both extra fuel and a bagged lunch.

If you have any questions about these events, please do not hesitate in reaching out to either myself or the club.

And a reminder if you plan on riding in the Aroostock county area either with TTR when we head up there in August or at a different time I would strongly encourage you to join one of the local clubs in that area. The clubs in that area have to purchase an additional insurance policy to receive permission from Irving to use their land. Your machine must also be equipped with an ATV Maine sticker which can be fulfilled with TTR or by the local club up north.

If anyone would like to receive a copy of the riding schedule please see me.

Club Membership Update

Dan Parlin updated everyone that annual club membership are due so please remit them in as soon as possible.

Safety Course

Ron Dumont provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders has another safety course scheduled and it is being held on Sunday, June 14th in the Exhibition Hall on the Topsham Fairgrounds. The class instructors will be Randy Bickford, Tim Moody, and Ron Dumont. The State of Maine handles the registration and both students and a parent need to register for the course. Lunch will be provided by TTR. Chris and Donnie Boyd, and Jenny Little volunteered to help setup that day.

Old Business

House in the Woods

Jenny Little provided the following update:

As a reminder, Topsham Trailriders will be one of the many clubs around the state hosting a benefit ride for House in the Woods which is a veterans organization located in Lee, Maine. The cost for the ride will be \$10.00 for each participant and all proceeds will be donated to House in the Woods.

In anticipation of drawing a large crowd during this event and with limited parking available on West side we moved the event to our East side. The Topsham Fair had the availability of the Pulling Ring so we've booked that facilitate for the event Jenny also checked with the Topsham Police Department and they are happy to be present with ensuring we securely cross at the Rt. 196 intersection provided they are not on calls.

The local boy scout troop will be there to our color guard and we have someone lined up to sing the national anthem.

There are many pieces that go into a successful event. Last month a sheet was circulated of the areas we needed assistance with during the event. a sign-up with a list of areas that we are in need of for this event. They include trail preparations, working the registration table, working the apparel table, working the raffle table, preparing food at the event, creating an opening ceremony of sorts. If you are interested in helping out in one or many of these areas please let Jenny know.

The food option that could be available during the benefit ride was discussed. Last year, during the July ride we sold a pizza bundle for \$8.00 which included two slices of pizza, a bag of chips, a dessert, and something to drink. We ended up selling out of the pizza marking it a huge success. It was discussed and the majority of the folks in attendance thought it be a bit too late to begin planning hot dogs & hamburgers so we've opted for the pizza bundle.

- Motion was made by Randy Bickford to order enough pizza for the upcoming benefit ride. We could not assign a figure at this time because the volume of interest will increase as the event draws near.
- Motion accepted by Richard Arsenault
- Was passed with no opposition.

In an effort to raise additional funds for House in the Woods we will put together a raffle table. I've visited with the following businesses in Topsham: Great Clips, Hallmark, Fairground Café, Smitty's, Sherman Bookstore, Jersey Mikes, Buffalo Wild Wings, Firehouse Subs, 99 Restaurant, Bootleggers, and Subway.

- Jenny will do her best to follow up with these businesses but if anyone has the time and could reach back out to them I'm sure she would appreciate it.

Perhaps visit with other businesses such as Kopper Kettle, Napa, 104 Main Public House? Or if any club member would like to donate a gift card to be included in the raffle please let Jenny know.

To help during our House in the Woods event and other TTR events Jenny inquired if the club would object to the purchasing of two additional 8ft tables.

- Motion was made by Dan Parlin to purchase two additional 8 ft tables for the club.
- Motion accepted by Tim Williams
- Was passed with no opposition

New Business

Open Member Comment:

Jenny Little provided an update on the following:

Recently, Lonney Girard, President of the Lakes Region ATV club was diagnosed with Stage 4 bladder cancer. Lonney has been an avid support and advocate for the sport of ATVing and the ATV community is rallying for him as he battles cancer. The Lakes Region ATV club is dedicating their Full Moon Night ride which is scheduled for this coming Saturday, June 3rd in the Casco area beginning at 5:30 pm.

- Motion was made by Rocky League to donate \$500 the Go-fund me that was started for Lonney.
- Motion was accepted by Mike Little
- Was passed with no opposition

Motion to Adjourn was received at 7:49 pm by Dan Parlin and was accepted by Noah Herrick. Was passed with no opposition.

Upcoming TTR Events

June 3rd – Out of Town Club Ride **Pittsfield to the B52 Memorial Site** -- Pittsfield

June 4th – **TTR Trail Work Party** – West Side Park & Ride 9 am

June 11th -- **TTR Trail Work Party** – East Side Park & Ride 9 am

June 14th at 6:00 pm– **TTR Social** – Fairground Cafe – 49 Topsham Fair Mall Rd.

June 17th – In Town Club Ride – **House in the Woods Benefit Ride** – Pulling Ring on the Topsham Fair

June 24th– Out of Town Club Ride **Newport / Corinna Loop** -- Newport

June 26th at 6:30pm – **Monthly Meeting** – Exhibition Hall – Topsham Fairgrounds

Respectfully Submitted

Dee Blanchette

05/31/2023

May 2023 minutes were approved during the June 26th meeting. JLITTLE 06.27.2023

