

Topsham Trailriders February Meeting



Date: Monday, February 24th, 2025

Location: Don Russell Board Room - Town of Topsham Municipal Office Building - 100 Main St.

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Williams

Tim Moody

Ashleigh Rolfson

Board of Directors Present: Michael Little

John Bursley

Sam Bulmer

Cindy Sheain

James Belanger

Board of Directors Absent: Matt Nixon

Rick Emmert

Isaac Ruehl

Brad Hoskins

Anika Emmert

Stephanie Burnham

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:36 pm

Approximately 22 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary's Report

Jenny Little emailed a copy of the January minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested any edits to be made to the minutes that were sent out.

Motion was made by Sam Bulmer to approve the Secretary's report

Motion Accepted by Kyle McComiskey

Was passed with no opposition

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

April's Meeting

Don't forget when we return to the Exhibition Hall in April, we might be coordinating a friendly chili and chowder contest. Mark your calendars, April 28th. Details to come!

UPDATE: Tim Williams and Rick Emmert have volunteered to be the judges. Get those chili recipes out of the kitchen cupboard!

ATV Maine

Proposed Weight Change

In early February, TTR received an email from ATV Maine inviting our input about the proposed weight change discussion going on in Augusta.

The current law currently defines an oversized ATV as:

"An oversized ATV is defined as an ATV that is wider than 65 inches or that weighs more than 2,000 pounds according to the original manufacturer's specifications.

Oversized ATVs cannot be registered in the State of Maine."

The letter informed us that there are currently three (3) different proposals being discussed in Augusta. All appear to simply address the weight limit itself. The three (3) limits being discussed all propose an increase to the current weight limit and would bring the current limit of 2,000 pounds to either 2500, 3000, or 3500 pounds.

ATV Maine invited clubs to share their input as to what they would like to see them advocate for in Augusta. They also suggested that each club seek input from our landowners. At this time we will hold off on doing this.

Annual ATV Maine Banquet

The 2025 ATV Maine banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12th at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, Maine. If you are interested in going, please know that you will need to complete a registration form along with remitting a form of payment which is a total of \$25.00. They are working on creating the form so I will need to send one along after our meeting if anyone is interested. Please contact me if you are interested in going to the banquet.

ATV Maine Memberships

Topsham Trailriders has recently learned that ATV Maine is going away from the cards that they implanted two years ago! Yahooo! They are simplifying the process!

Merrymeeting Trail Update LD 29

The Merrymeeting Trail would be a 25-mile regional trail that runs along the unused rail corridor from Topsham to Richmond. There is a bill in

The Merrymeeting Trail would be a 25-mile regional trail that runs along the unused rail corridor from Brunswick to Gardiner. There was a group that officially kicked off an evaluation of the rail corridor in 2022 and in 2024 rendered a recommendation to some agencies that the advisory's recommendation is to establish a trail for pedestrians and cyclists only.

Throughout the entire process the Topsham Trailriders have continued to advocate for a TRUE multi-use which would allow MANY folks to use it rather than just two types including both ATV and snowmobile use. LD 29 the Merrymeeting Trail bill which is the bill looking to implement the advisor's recommendation will soon have a public hearing. The bill was introduced by the Maine Department of Transportation and referred to the Legislature's Transportation Committee. The bill was sponsored by Mattie Daughtry of Brunswick and co-sponsored by Rep. Sally Cluchey of Bowdoinham.

We've just received word that the public hearing session for this bill has been scheduled for March 4th at 1 pm. Here is the link providing you with additional guidance on how to submit your testimonials, please make sure to request that the language on LD 29 be expanded to include all user groups.

http://www.merrymeetingtrail.org/?page_id=691&fbclid=IwY2xjawljCmdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHZEpmj4b_0Iso8Vv3PSDjlLgRZ_AsjlKBXjG_8akqzS4a6_sYfiZrO7g_aem_USHu8EGy0iqqWSQEV12hkw

We would appreciate it if each member would either participate in the live public session or submit a letter of support again requesting the language to be updated to include all trail user groups. Let's continue to flood social media! Together we are stronger!

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to John Bursley, Rick Emmert, Matt Nixon and Ashleigh Rolfson for all of their time and effort they put in to creating our video advocating that the Merrymeeting Trail be a multiuse trail!

UPDATE: Heather inquired if we had a sample letter/template folks could use when submitting their testimonials. Jenny has created a templated and it is attached to the email.

West Side Park and Ride

If you recall during the last meeting, I shared with the group that there was a recent landowner change with the access trail leaving our West Side Park and Ride. After our meeting we met with the landowner and I am happy to share that they have generously signed off to allow us the use of their land.

Treasurer Report

Tim provided a printed treasurer report which will be attached to the minutes when they are sent out which is an update since our January meeting.

Motion was made by Heather Benson to approve the treasurer's report provided at the meeting

Motion accepted by Tim Williams

Was Passed with No Opposition

Tim Moody abstained from the vote

Trail Master Update

Tim Williams provided the following update:

East Side

The snowmobile trails on the east side are still open for snowmobile use. Trail 5 is still closed at this time though.

West Side

The snowmobile trails on the west side are still open except for trail 2b. Trail 2b is still closed to any activity type.

UPDATE:

A couple of additional items were brought up during the meeting

- Jim Belanger and Sam Bulmer mentioned that our West side park and ride entrance needs to be cleared out after every storm, especially since the plow guys like to push the snow into that corner. Mike Little mentioned that we've discussed moving our Kiosk from the other side of the park and ride and maybe positioning it near the entrance of the trail head will let folks know there is a trail there. Mike also mentioned perhaps we should explore adjusting the approach.
- Jim B. would like to see Topsham connected to other towns. ☺
- Jim B. also mentioned this was the first year he accessed the trail leaving the West side park and ride with the snowmobile gear. He was wondering if we could explore the section of the trail near the landowners' drain pool. He stated there is quite the incline there and with the machine and drag sometimes having to push through some snowdrifts.
- There are a couple of areas that Jim has mentioned that he is extremely limited as to what he can with the drag. Two of the areas is to extend the approaches on the Father's day bridge and he also mentioned that the ledge near the Bickford bridge need to be beaten down. At this time, he only can safely go down that section of trail.
- Jim B. also inquired about Brigham Trail. Everyone informed him that we are working that trail this year and he should see a vast difference.
- Tim Doyle shared with the group that he has been grooming on the East side. He also asked if he could submit receipts for reimbursement. He said he would get them to Charlie before next weekend. Jenny will also follow up with Tim.
- Jim B. inquired if anyone recalled who created the club's drag because he lost a spring on it and he is looking to repair it. Tim D. thought it was a welder who lived on Rt. 201. Jenny will do some research and get a few names for Jim.

- Jim B. mentioned since we have equipment coming out to break some stone up, he was hoping we might consider doing some rock work on the back side of the Ward road.
- There is one bridge that Jim B needs on a section of trail that is only a snowmobile trail. For perspective he informed us it was the area that caused him to break a track a couple of years ago. The bridge does not need to be huge, matter of fact a 5x7 would probably be suffice. Mike L. mentioned that perhaps we could create the bridge and find a close access point to help Jim bring it in.

Adding more organization and structure to TTR Trail Responsibilities

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Our goal began in April 2024 to prepare a general list of projects which would help create a master trail project tracking sheet for the club. I happy to share that Tim and I have kicked this portion of the process off by creating a google document that listed TTR projects that have been brought up over last season. The sheet was sent out to the handful of folks who have attended our work parties. If you would like to offer your input on trail work projects, please let me know and I will along the worksheet to you.

Tim and I will then compile the results of the survey and create a master sheet that will be accessible to all. Our goal is to make every attempt to streamline our trailwork processes both now and in the future. Having an idea of what needs to be completed will allow the club to delegate some of the projects during our upcoming work parties. The document will also include a list of tasks that can be completed independently should you not be able to attend our scheduled work parties.

Furthermore, we will be looking at bringing back our reoccurring weeknight work parties early in the season to ensure we are continuously manicuring our trails, especially during growing season!

Finally, with Rick's help we are working on digitizing the trail worksheets. We are hopeful to have these ready to launch by the middle of April when we really get started on trailwork. Fingers crossed!

Storage Unit

A reminder to the board that late last year we discussed acquiring a storage unit to house some of our trail equipment. I will soon be finalizing this with the storage company. I will begin by looking at a 5x10. When I met with the business owner earlier this month, they said they would be willing to offer a small discount. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Trail Work Parties

There is one work party tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 16th.

Committee Updates

BBQ Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

In the past this event has been either our landowner appreciation cookout or our club house fundraiser. This year the event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 27th and to be held on the east side of our trail system. Would there be any objection if we were to host it on our west side instead? I know we've also often had a big feast for all to enjoy after our ride but given the proximity to the Ride for a Cure event we might adjust to this also.

UPDATE: There were no objections to moving this event to the West side. Jenny will update social media.

Apparel Committee

Jenny Little provided the following update:

There is not much to report from the apparel committee currently.

Maine Sportsman Show Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Date of the show: Friday, March 28th – 1 pm to 8 pm
Saturday, March 29th – 9 am to 7 pm
Sunday, March 30th – 9 am to 4 pm

Show Set-Up

- The club paperwork needed for the table includes ride schedules, membership forms, and information sheet is nearly all printed.
- Slide Show
 - Rick Emmert is going to work on creating another knock out slide show.

A reminder that this year we will be offering a membership discount of \$5.00 for all memberships completed during the Sportsman Show. For example, if an individual either new or renewing would pay \$30.00 rather than \$35.00 for their annual dues.

UPDATE: Jenny and Ashleigh will work together to get a banner made for the discount being offered.

Needs for the show from Members:

Raffle

- The committee is still seeking donations to help create a raffle. If you would like to know what we are still seeking, please see me! Remember that the proceeds from the raffle sales will be donated to our Ride for a Cure fundraiser!

Volunteers

- We still have a couple of slots available for the weekend! Please let me know if you would like to help. If you are a volunteer and can't recall when you signed up, please let me know. I will be sending a detailed email when the show gets a little closer.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

There is really nothing to report during this time of the year! The countdown has begun though:

19 days remain till March 16th TTR's first trail work party

103 days remain till June 7st TTR/We-ATV 207's first out of town ride which is the Ken Snowdon Memorial Ride – Pittsfield to Greenville

If you are interested in helping during any of these events, please do not be shy and reach out to me. We are always looking for folks to help.

And finally, I always love hearing any suggestions that you would like us to consider please contact me (Michael Little), Ride Coordinator, for Topsham Trailriders at 207-522-3780.

Update from the Membership Chair

Rick Emmert was unable to attend the meeting, so Jenny Little provided the following update about our current membership totals for TTR:

TTR is holding steady with 120 memberships!

Ride for a Cure

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Date for our Ride for a Cure ride is: October 18th, 2025

Registration begins at 9:00 am

Drivers meeting at 9:45 am

Departure time 10 am

Cost: \$20 a machine

We are excited to share with everyone that with the guidance we received from the Town and keeping in mind this is a fundraiser ride we've opted to host our Ride for a Cure event on the East side of our trail system. We will be departing from the Pulling Ring located on the Topsham Fairgrounds at 10 am. We are hopeful that this event will draw a large crowd, so we are considering dividing the group up as necessary. We will be adding some additional

components to this event such as a DJ donating their time or perhaps a bouncy house! We are open to suggestions.

We are aware that the East side of our trail system offers around an hour of riding, so the committee is considering at the end of all the Ride for a Cure festivities offering to lead a ride on the West side of our trail system.

There is more exciting news coming soon! We've already approached a club to inquire if they would be interested in handling the food for this and we are hoping to be able to provide you with a sketch of our T-shirt during the next meeting. We will also be participating in an informational meeting with the Dempsey Center to explore if there is an opportunity to connect our Ride for a Cure event with them. As we said more information is forth coming!

And finally, and probably the most important component is fundraising for this event! If each TTR member were to ask one or two businesses, it would help to make this event exceptional. Rick has created some tracking sheets to help document who is reaching out to who and to avoid any duplications. With the help of the Ride for a Cure committee we've drafted a sponsorship letter that can be used when visiting businesses. Please contact any member of the Ride for a Cure committee for access to the documents. I really hope everyone will step up and help us with this component.

Clubhouse Committee

Jessica Emmert was unable to attend the meeting, so Jenny Little provided the following update:

Our Clnyk donations continue to raise money for the clubhouse has been wildly popular and we have been able to raise a good amount of money so far just from club member donations. I am excited to see that these donations have been added to our Clubhouse account which I am happy to see is already a little over \$2,200!

A reminder that we have plenty of Clnyk bags available. These bags already have stickers placed on them but please only take them if you will actively fill them and return them to your nearest Clnyk location. Or, if you have a balance within your personal and would like donate a portion of the money collected to the Topsham Trailriders, please contact us to acquire our account number.

Old Business:

Club By-law Revisions

Jenny Little provided the following update:

During our November 2024 meeting we kicked off a detailed review of our club by-laws. Last month we received some suggested edits and there added into the drafted by-laws and Version D was sent out to everyone for a final review. I did not receive any edits via email but would like to open the meeting up for any edits to be brought for discussion.

No additional edits were requested during the meeting so we will complete the official by-law vote during our next meeting.

Topsham Fair Skijoring

Ashleigh Rolfson provided the following update:

TTR did great. She has made note of a couple of adjustments that should be considered for next year. There will be a wrap up meeting sometime soon. She will notify us when it is scheduled.

Jenny extended a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who helped set up the Skijoring track for the Topsham Fair especially John Bursley. The Topsham Fair needed help with clearing snow around the fairgrounds and John was there to help. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who spent the morning with us during the event! It is always a good time! Hopefully they will do it again in 2026.

New Business:

Moxie Day Parade

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders has officially registered for this year's Moxie Day Parade! It is scheduled for Saturday, July 12th and the theme is Hang Loose Drink Moxie! Last year we mentioned exploring the possibility of having a float. I've tentatively asked Bursey Enterprises if he would be willing to tow the TTR float during the parade if we are still interested in doing this. Or we can do what we did last year! Just wanted to mention it!

Topsham Fair

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders has officially registered as a 2025 Topsham Fair. It is scheduled to occur from Tuesday, August 5th to Sunday, August 10th. A reminder that TTR will more than likely have some type of involvement with the mud runs often held on the first night of the Fair! Stay tuned for updates!

Social Night

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club would have been scheduled for Wednesday, March 12th at 6 pm. We will be dining at 104 Main Public House. The restaurant appreciates receiving a headcount as to how many folks will be coming. Please let Jenny know if you will be coming by either updating your status to going within the Facebook event or by contacting her personally.

Open Member Comment

Sam Bulmer mentioned that he recently attended the Bowdoin Snowbirds meeting. Thank you, Sam!

A motion to adjourn the meeting at _7:36__pm was made by Tim Moody
Motion was accepted by Dan Pellegrini
Was passed with no opposition

Upcoming Topsham Trailriders & We-ATV 207 events

Wednesday, March 12th — TTR Monthly Social Night – 6 pm 104 Main Public House – 104 Main Street - Topsham

Sunday, March 16th – TENTATIVE TTR Work Party – Location TBD - Topsham – 8 am

Friday, March 28th – TTR Participates in the State of Maine Sportsman Show in Augusta

Saturday, March 29th – TTR Participates in the State of Maine Sportsman Show in Augusta

Sunday, March 30th – TTR Participates in the State of Maine Sportsman Show in Augusta

Monday, March 31st at 6:30 pm— Monthly Club Meeting – Don Russell Board Room in the Municipal Building— 100 Main St. — Topsham

Submitted,
Ashleigh Rolfson
02.26.2025

Minutes were approved without any edits during the March 31, 2025 meeting. JLL