

Topsham Trailriders September Meeting



Date: Monday, September 30th, 2024

Location: Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Williams

Tim Moody

Jessica Emmert

Board of Directors Present: Michael Little

Randy Bickford

Sam Bulmer

Rick Emmert

Charlie Parkinson

Brad Hoskins

Board of Directors Absent: Matt Nixon

James Belanger

Don Curtis

Brad Hoskins

Noah Herrick

Dan Parlin

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:28 pm

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:35 pm

Approximately 21 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary's Report

Jessica Emmert emailed a copy of the August minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested for any additional edits to be made to the minutes that were sent out.

- Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the Secretary's report.
- Motion Accepted by Kyle MComiskey
- Was passed with no opposition

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

Municipal Grant Update

I am excited to share that Bursey has completed 95% of the work on the West Side. He is waiting for the asphalt project to be completed so he can have a little more room to work on the access trail. We will soon be filing our final reimbursement and that will mark another successful municipal grant. Similar to last year a lot was learned about the process and next year we will discuss enhancements to the entire process. During this upcoming month an inspection party will be scheduled with Bursey to begin planning for next year's application. Participating in this type of grant program has allowed a SIGNIFICANT amount of work to be completed in a small window of time.

Winter Meeting Location

A reminder to all that beginning with our November meeting, our monthly meetings will soon be relocated to a room in either the town office or the public safety building. I am working with the Town to solidify a location. Stay tuned for updates.

Trail Closure Date

I am certainly not trying to rush the remainder of the season along but similar to last year Topsham Trailriders will close their trails the weekend after Thanksgiving provided that conditions allow for riding until then. We do reserve the right to close them earlier if it is necessary. Continue to check both our website and Facebook for updates.

Merrymeeting Trail Update / Multi Use Trail

It has been a bit of time since there was an update available about the The Merrymeeting Trail (multi-use trail). This trail would be a 25-mile regional trail that runs along the unused rail corridor. A committee was formed, and they began to meet in October of 2022 I believe. Topsham Trailriders was invited to some of these meetings to express our support for a true multi-use trail meaning ATVs, Snowmobiles, horses, pedestrians, cyclists to name a few. Late in the year of 2023 perhaps even early 2024 the committee submitted their recommendation to the State as to what they deem an appropriate use of this trail. Unfortunately, the language presented was not written in a fashion that appeared to support a true multi use trail. Matthew Nixon, our Landowner Relations chair, recently contacted me to share that during the upcoming Selectman meeting, Thursday, October 3rd, the multi-use trail is once again on the agenda.

I believe it important that we fill the room with as many TTR members as possible. It quite possibly might be a very brief conversation on the matter or it might be an item that is discussed at length. Regardless, it is imperative that we show up to once again mark our support of a true multi-use trail. Who here is willing to attend this meeting?

Election Committee

As a reminder our annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28th. It is during this meeting we hold the annual elections for club officers and board positions. All of the positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer as well as the 5 Board Positions) are elected annually. Nominations for the positions listed above were accepted during this meeting and the voting occurs in October.

Note: Jenny Little, advised members how to complete the nomination form. Cici and Bob Eberle reviewed the names received for each position. Once the analysis was completed, they presented their nominee summary sheet to Jenny so that the nominees could be asked if they would accept their nominations. At the end of the meeting the nominees for each position were as follows:

Executive Board

President: Jenny Little **Vice President:** Tim Williams **Secretary:** Jessica Emmert **Treasurer:** Tim Moody

Board of Directors – 5 Positions

Michael Little / Randy Bickford / Rick Emmert / Cindy Sheain / Stephanie Burnham / Kyle McComiskey / John Bursley / Bob Strout

NOTE: Bob was not present at the meeting and Jenny reached out to Bob to inquire if he is interested in accepting the nomination.

As you begin to think about who you may vote for in October, please consider the following: who is best suited for the position, who advocates for TTR both within both the ATV and local community whether in person or from afar, and who actively participates with TTR. It is exciting to see new folks wanting to join the board.

Treasurer Report

Jenny Little provided the following update:

To streamline the account information that Tim reports to us monthly he and I are working on creating a simple worksheet for Tim to use. The intention of this document is to list out the transactional information that has occurred since our last meeting for all members to see.

Tim provided a copy of the balance sheet that provided a printed treasurer report which will be attached to the minutes when they are sent out.

Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda
Motion accepted by Kyle McComiskey
Was Passed with No Opposition
Tim Moody abstained from the vote

Trail Master Update

Charlie Parkinson provided the following update:

East Side

A couple of weeks ago a huge work party was held on the East side. A lot was accomplished during that work party.

West Side

Given the lack of excessive rain and wind the trails are holding up quite well.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Saturday, October 12th at 8 am

West Side Work Party – Meeting at Branch Road

The work party will be held on our West side.

As always, arrive WELL before 8 am to ensure you are ready for when the work begins at 8 am. During this work party we will meet at the end of Branch Road aka Dave Anderson's lot. We departed from this location earlier this year but if you are unsure where it is located, please contact me. The purpose of this work party is to begin hauling out lumber from the woods and bringing it to the transfer station for proper disposal. Please plan on bringing your machines, trailer, chain saw, shovels, and a positive attitude!

I am pleased to share with everyone that during this work party we will also be cutting a few trees on the Polaris bridge trail that we have received approval for. A small group including myself will be working on this during the work party on the 12th as well.

The Facebook event and website event have been updated with these additional details.

Committee Updates

Charlie Parkinson provided the following update:

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Committee Section:

BBQ Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Summary of TTR's 3rd Annual BBQ & Ride
Saturday, September 28th

Registration began at 10 am

Ride left at 10:30 am

Food was served a little before 12:00 pm

Location: Pulling Ring at the Topsham Fairgrounds

50/50: Brought in \$234.00

- The winner donated their winnings back to the club.

Expenses:

- From the receipts I was aware of we spent \$270.57 total, and we were approved to spend up to \$500.00.

Event Feedback:

- Setting up Friday night was a smart decision
- Bracelets worked great
- We had 22 machines join us / last year (2023) 31 machines join us and in 2022 we had 33
- Credit card sales via Square: Gross Sales: \$33.00 after fees \$XX.XX was transferred to our account (clothing sale)
- At the end of the event, folks were offered the opportunity to make a small donation for leftovers to take home with them
- We did not get tickets this year. We charged \$20 per person and \$50.00 for 2 adults and 2 children

Clothing Feedback:

- Sold: 2 hats, 1 tumbler, 2 clearance blue shirts and 1 25th anniversary shirt.

Calculations:

Total of Ticket Sales: \$800.00

Total of Expenses that I was aware of: \$270.57

Proceeds from the 50/50: \$234

Proceeds from Miscellaneous Donations: \$63.41 + \$25.00 (check)= \$88.41

Proceeds from Clothing Sales: \$108 (Credit Card: \$33.00 / Cash: 73.00)

Grand Total for the 3rd annual TTR BBQ Fundraiser: \$959.84

In 2023 we made:

Total of Ticket Sales: \$1,140.00

Total of Expenses that I was aware of: \$213.77

Proceeds from the 50/50: \$238

Proceeds from Miscellaneous Donations: \$139

Proceeds from Clothing Sales: \$146

Grand Total for the 2nd annual TTR BBQ Fundraiser : \$1,449.23

Apparel Committee

Jenny Little provided the following update:

There is not much to report from the apparel committee currently. Please take note that we will soon be removing the 25th anniversary gear from our store so if you have not ordered any I would recommend that you do so as soon as possible. If you haven't visited the store recently here is the link: <https://www.gotvinyl207.com/topsham-trailriders!>

As another shirt option for our digital store I've had a dual logo shirt designed for everyone to review. Here is a scaled down version of it. Thoughts?

Image circulated:



Feedback received during the meeting:

Front of shirt: Perhaps make the “who do I ride with?” – into pocket size

Back of shirt: Top of the back add language that reads Together we ride

Make sure we add a variety of color options along with a woman's v-neck

Maine Sportsman Show Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

There is nothing new to report at this time.

Ride for a Cure

Jenny Little provided the following update:

At the end of this year's Ride for a Cure event Brandy and I will be doing a live feed to officially announce the plans for next year's Ride for a Cure event. Maybe you can catch it live and put a plug in for TTR! 😊

A reminder that we voted in July to host another event to benefit Ride for a Cure on Saturday, October 18th, 2025. We will kick off planning for this event in January. If you are interested in helping with this committee please let me know.

Clubhouse Committee

Jessica Emmert provided the following update:

We had our first clubhouse meeting 9/12/2024 and discussed key topics such as exploring connecting trail systems, possible locations, to build or find an existing location. Additionally we discussed the overall vision of what types of events will be held, what inventory will need to be stored, operational costs and potential fundraising opportunities to offset any associated costs for this process. The Committee meets again 10/10/2024.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

We could be heading into the last possible full month of riding for the ATV season so let's make it a jammed pack month. This coming weekend, Friday, October 4th to Sunday, October 6th we will be heading to Machias for a weekend of riding. We will be participating in the Ride for a Cure event on Sunday which I am excited about. I would like everyone to know who might be coming on Sunday that the ride moves at a pretty good clip. They often do not go below 25 mph.

Here are the other rides/work parties scheduled for September:

Saturday, October 12th – West Side Trail Work Party

Sunday, October 13th – Rosie Gendron's 2nd Annual Ride hosted by Riverside Trailriders / We-Atv 207

Saturday, October 19th – Head to Kingfield

Sunday, October 27th – Food Drive Ride – Last Ride of the 2024 season for TTR

Also, a reminder during our annual meeting next month the 2025 Topsham Trailriders ride schedule is scheduled to be presented.

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

Update from the Membership Chair

Dan Parlin provided the following update about our current membership totals for TTR:

As of September 29, 2024, TTR has the following for club memberships:

Total Number of Memberships: 118

Business Sponsors: 11

Of the 118 Number of Memberships;

They can be broken down to:

100 Regular Members

64 ATV Maine Members
24 MSA Members
10 Honorary Members
8 Associate Members

Old Business:

Elections

Jenny Little provided the following update:

As a reminder our annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28th. We will be holding our election of all officers and board positions during this meeting. All of the positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer as well as the 5 Board Positions) are next month. Please come to this meeting to cast your vote.

ATVing Santa

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Again this year, Topsham Trailriders will be helping Mr. & Mrs. Claus help spread Christmas cheer in downtown Bath as well as the local Senior homes. All who participated brought their wheelers which were decorated in holiday gear and some members even dressed up as reindeer and elves. This year Main Street Bath is looking at doing the same type of event perhaps with a few small changes and Topsham Trailriders will once again be spreading Christmas cheer. The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th beginning around 10 am.

We are limited to only 10 machines and all of the spots have already been spoken for.

CPR Class for members of TTR

Stephanie Burnham provided the following update:

Stephanie shared that she is still completing research and will hopefully have an update for us soon.

CarPort (Canvas Covering our Storage Unit)

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The replacement tent has been ordered and delivered. We are aiming to install the new tent on Sunday, October 20th at 8 am. We would appreciate a few extra hands. Anyone interested in helping?

NOTE: Rick E / Jess E / Tim M / Mike L / Brad H / Andrea H / Charlie P have volunteered to help put the tent up.

American Legion Post 202 February Softball Tournament

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Since our last meeting the club has received the letter from the American Legion Post 202 regarding their upcoming 2025 Softball tournament. Ultimately, they are seeking a donation from TTR. Last year we donated \$250.00, and I would like to seek input from everyone if we should consider donating again this year?

NOTE: During the meeting we discussed varying amounts. In the end we circled back to \$100.00.

A Motion was made by Jenny Little to approve donating \$100.00 to the American Legion Softball Tournament. Included in the motion, if an invitation was extended offering TTR a table we would facilitate a 50/50 drawing and the club proceeds will be given to the Softball Tournament.

Motion Accepted by Kyle McComiskey

Was passed with no opposition

Trunk or Treat – Town of Topsham

Jenny Little shared that Topsham Trailriders will once again be participating in the Trunk or Treat Halloween event facilitated by the Parks and Recreation department from the Town of Topsham. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 3:45ish to 8:00pm. A sign-up sheet is circulating this evening for anyone who would like to help with this event. Spaces are limited so we would like to aim for no more than 6 people.

New Business:

Last Ride of the Season – Food Drive Benefit Ride

Jenny Little provided the following update:

A reminder, that our annual food drive ride is scheduled for Sunday, October 27th. Registration for the event will begin at 9:15 and the ride will depart at 10 am. We are planning on hosting this event on our West side. Given the volume of machines we could potentially receive for this event we will be departing from the dirt parking lot located on Agway Drive.

As we get closer to that date, I'll reach out to everyone via email to seek volunteers. So save the date...Sunday, October 27th – Last ride of the season on the West side!

Helping the Topsham Fair

Topsham Trailriders has a great relationship established with the Topsham Fair. They generously allow us the use of their facilities to host our events and our monthly meetings. During our recent conversations the President of the Topsham Fair has made mention of a couple of items they need help with. The board and I would really appreciate it if a couple of members willing to step up and help the fair out on our behalf. The tasks are:

1. Saturday, October 5th – Adding plywood to a barn at 9 am. Please bring your drill.
2. In early November – they will need help with shutting the water down.

UPDATE: Thank you to the members that were able to assist with this task! The Topsham Fair folks were very appreciative of our efforts!

Social Night

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th at 6 pm. The social will be at 104 Main Public House located on Main St. in Topsham. The restaurants appreciate 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

- A member inquired if we had ever thought about doing a bottle drive to help raise funds for the clubhouse.
 - Anyone interested in looking into Clynk on behalf of TTR?
- Charlie Parkinson mentioned that the electric dump trailer needs some electrical repairs caused by mice and he believes he can repair it for under \$150.00.
 - A motion was made by Jenny Little to allow Charlie to spend up to \$150.00 to repair the trailer. The motion also included that the trailer repairs need to be completed before November 30th.
 - Motion accepted by Tim Williams
 - Was passed with no opposition
- Charlie Parkinson also mentioned that the club machine needs a repair to correct a wobble and he believes he knows what's causing the issue but isn't 100% certain.
 - Before we allocate funds to repair the club machine, we should know what exactly the machine needs for repair.
 - There was no motion made at this time.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at _7:35__pm was made by Tim Williams

Motion was accepted by Kyle McComiskey

Was passed with no opposition

Upcoming Topsham Trailriders and WE ATV 207 events

October 9th - 6pm - October Social Night- 104 Main St Topsham

October 12th - 7:45am - Topsham Trailriders Trail Work Party- West Side

October 13th - 9:00am - WE-ATV 207 & TTR head to Riverside Trailriders ride in Lisbon

October 19th - 6:30am - WE-ATV 207 & TTR head to Kingsfield

October 26th - 3:45pm TTR Joins in Trunk or Treat with Topsham Parks & Rec

October 27th - 9:15am TTR Food Drive Club Ride- Last ride of the season!

October 28th - 6:30pm - Regular Membership Meeting

Submitted

Jessica Emmert

10/7/2024

September 2024 minutes were approved during the October 28, 2024 meeting. JLL