

Topsham TrailRiders June Meeting



Date: Monday, June 26, 2023

Location: Exhibition Hall on the Topsham Fairgrounds, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little
Tim Moody
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
Devin Favreau

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:31 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 PM

Approximately 20 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary Report:

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

- Motion was made by Bob Sweeney to approve the Secretary's report.
- Motion Accepted by Dan Parlin
- Was passed with no opposition.

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

House in the Woods Event

Job well done Topsham Trailriders! Job well done! On Saturday, June 17th we held our first ever hopefully annual event for House in the Woods. Despite the weather I thought it was a very successful event. In conjunction with the proceeds from the Sportsman Show raffle we raised \$1,300 for House in the Woods! I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make this happen as well as all of the folks who attended!

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. As of June 21st some of the ground work has kicked off and at the request of both the landowner and contractor the access trail from the West Side park and ride is closed until further notice.

On Wednesday, June 22nd, Matt Nixon, Charlie Parkinson, Michael Little, Brian Bronson and I met with the landowner. He once again shared 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. During the meeting he provided us a timeline on the project and his buildings will not begin going up until September the last time he checked with his contractor. Matt, Charlie and I had already been exploring alternative trail access possibilities for the West Side while now we are exploring them as part of our full-time job! My hope is to minimize the amount of time the access is closed on the West side but also continue to work with the landowner to arrive to a plan that pleases both he and TTR.

Municipal Grant Update

On June 12th, I received an email from Pam Leduc, Director of Parks & Recreation for the Town of Topsham to congratulate TTR on having been awarded a \$42,000 municipal grant with \$37,800 as reimbursable expenses. The next step in the process now is to return to the Selectman for them to approve our acceptance of the grant. Pam has added us to the agenda for Thursday, July 20th. We are not anticipating any issues during that meeting but until then we should be cautious on our expenditures. Charlie and I will be meeting with Pam to discuss the municipal expense reimbursement and to create a process that works for both the Town as well as TTR.

When Brian Bronson was visiting for the recent West Side landowner meeting, we walked the property to evaluate where the park and ride access trail may need to be relocated to reopen the trail. It was quickly determined that some of the work that would be needed in that area could require equipment. He advised reaching back out to him once we have a clearer picture of the trail location and we will explore the possibility of amending our municipal grant. I

suspect that the amendment may include updating our description of work that was provided on our original application.

Merrymeeting Trail Update

The Merrymeeting Trail will be a 25-mile regional trail that runs along the unused rail corridor. A committee was formed and they have been meeting on a monthly base since October of last year I believe. The MaineDOT hosted a public forum via Zoom on Thursday, June 22nd and I attended and spoke on behalf of Topsham Trailriders. I shared with the members of the public and the committee members that our vote is for a true multi-use trail that would include biking, hiking, walking, snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and ATVs.

The committee is hopeful to have their recommendation made by August. More updates to come on this.

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. On June 6th the Topsham Fair sign-up officially began for the 2023 Topsham Fair. The dates for the fair is August 8th to August 13th. I am happy to share that we have filled the following slots:

Tuesday 7 out of 8

Wednesday 8 out of 8

Thursday 6 out of 7

Friday 4 out of 8

Saturday 3 out of 8

Sunday 3 out of 6

We are off to a great start but we do still have spots to fill so additional emails will be remitted.

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. 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.

Locations are still actively being contacted.

Donation Received

Topsham Trailriders continuously receives donations from folks near and far but there was one recently received that I wanted to share with the group. A letter and check for \$100 was sent to TTR from L. Reynolds and Jenny read it aloud to the group.

Treasurer Report:

Tim Moody reported that as of 06/23/2023, we had \$530.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$4,110.51 in the checking account and \$7,264.31 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance \$1,089.60. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$1,401.53. The account pertaining to Events/Raffles has a balance of \$359.03

- Motion was made by Dan Parlin to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda.
- Motion accepted by Tim Williams
- 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 park and ride access trail is currently closed as Jenny shared earlier so there has not been much traffic on the trails. However, the trails on the West Side are open so if you can find a legal place to park you can ride ride trails but cannot access to the Nouria Gas station.

East Side:

This side looks good at the moment but Charlie has not been on the trails in the past few days. We also do have a project for the east side that will require our attention.

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Mat Hill Project

Remember that we placed an order for additional mats provided by Right-Way Trail Systems LLC out of New Hampshire. During Charlie's last conversation on June 7th the vendor advised three to four weeks until they are ready. Some of these mats will be installed on a hill on our East Side. Stay tuned for work party details – we've not yet scheduled one because we do not have the product.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties:

- **Saturday, July 8th at 9 am**
 - TTR will be contacting D. Anderson to inquire if we can using his property as a meeting location for this trail work party.

- A Facebook event and website event have been created with additional details

Charlie is still working on completing the repairs on the club's wheeler.

Committee Reports:

We have several committees within the organization and anyone is welcome to help at any time so please considering 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 and meal 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 are in and can be purchased tonight or during any of our events! We can accept cash, check, or credit card!! The link will be created and is soon to be added to the BBQ event so please feel free to navigate there to purchase your tickets. And we would appreciate it if you shared this post and all TTR posts! 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.

Apparel Committee

Jenny provided the following update:

I've been trying to locate a digital rendering of the Topsham Trailriders logo. Despite my efforts I have not been able to locate it. I am exploring with a company/contractor about getting them to recreate our logo so we can have a digital rendering of it. I think it is important that an organization have it available so you can create club gear very easily.

Once we have the digital rendering I am going to consider expanding our apparel options significantly by maybe doing a digital clothing store.

Dan Parlin advised Jenny that he has a thumb drive with the TTR logo and will get it to Jenny.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

The season has officially begun and we are off to a great start. All of the events so far have been very well attended even when we have rain forecasted. Similar to June we have a couple of out-of-town day trips but we also have our first overnight weekend. I am happy to say that there are additional events scheduled for July which include day trips and an overnight trip.

Our first ride in July was scheduled for this Saturday, July 1st in Rumford. Given the high volume of rain received in the Rumford / Roxbury area last night and with more rain forecasted during the week as well as trail closures in that area - We-Atv 207 and Topsham Trailriders is regretfully opting to cancel the Rumford ride scheduled for July 1st. We respect all of the hard work that the clubs do to maintain those trails and we do not wish to erode them excessively given the saturation of the trails.

Later in the month, beginning on Friday, July 14th to Monday, July 17th we will be heading to Moosehead Lake and spending the weekend riding that area. Please check the website or Facebook event for motel options if you would like to join us all weekend. For those folks who might be interested in joining us just for a day trip here is where we anticipate riding on each day:

Friday, July 14th

Greenville to Guildford and surrounding areas after having lunch at the Red Maple Inn Hopefully departing from the Park and Ride located on Depot St. in Greenville 10-10:15 am.

Saturday, July 15th

Greenville to Kokadjo – fuel is available in Kokadjo
Bring a bagged lunch because we will explore some of the Kokadjo trails before heading back.
Plan on leaving from the Depot St Park and Ride in Greenville at 8:30 am.

Sunday, July 16th

Greenville to Rockwood
We will be having lunch at Rockwood Bar and Grill and we can also acquire fuel there.
Plan on leaving from the Depot St Park and Ride in Greenville at 8:30 am.

Our next out of town trip is scheduled for Saturday, July 22nd where we will be heading to Oxford in a joint night ride with Oxford Trail Ryders. This event does have a coverage charge of \$10.00 per person because it is joint club fundraiser between Topsham Trailriders and Oxford Trail Ryders. We will be leaving from the OTR Park and Ride located on Number Six Road in Oxford at 4:45 pm. We are working on finding a restaurant that we could ride to for dinner.

And finally on Saturday, July 29th, we will be riding in the Temple area. For this event, we will be leaving from the Topsham McDonalds at 7:00 am and head to the Hannaford located at 15 Jay Plaza Lane. We will be leaving from the station at 8:45 am. Please pack both extra fuel and a bagged lunch.

If you have any questions these events, please do not hesitate in reaching out to either myself or the club. We do our best to post updates on either the Facebook event or the website event so I would recommend to continue to check one or the other.

And a reminder if you will be joining us next month when we head to Madawaska, 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 as well.

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

Club Membership Update

Dan Parlin shared that all memberships that he has received thus far have been processed. Our total number of members at this time is 112.

Safety Course

We do not have a course scheduled at this time so there is nothing to report at this time.

Old Business

There is nothing to report in this section.

New Business

TTR Tent Set-up for the Fair

During the Topsham Fair each year we put a tent up during the fair. Tim Moody is chatting with Leon Brilliant about the location of our tent will be this year. He will contact Jenny with updates. We've penciled in a date of Sunday, August 6th to set up the tent.

Next Month Social Night

Join us for a pot luck social night at the home of our long time members, Randy and Marcia Bickford. They have once again opened up their backyard and have offered to host TTR's July social night on Wednesday, July 12th at 6 pm. The address is 96 Summer St Lisbon ME. It is important to note to everyone who is planning on attending that you will need to bring a dish ready to serve and share. The host does have a grill ready to use too. Suggested food items include but not limited to: pizza, wings, kielbasa, salads, buffalo chicken dip, finger sandwiches, chili, and meatballs.

This event is outdoors so it is weather dependent. Check the website or facebook for updates.

Open Member Comment:

Maine ATV Coalition

Doug Dickinson, President of Maine ATV Coalition, attended the meeting tonight. He provided us with a very high overview of MAC. The mission of the organization is to be the voice and provide premium resources for ALL ATV clubs in Maine and the ATV community. Currently, MAC has 40 clubs participating with them. Doug did share with us how much it would cost for us to join their organization.

During the next regular membership meeting (scheduled for July 31st) we will have a brief discussion about TTR's next step with MAC.

No other updates were provided from other members.

Motion to Adjourn was received at 7:31 pm by Dale Rowe and was accepted by Don Curtis. Was passed with no opposition.

Upcoming TTR Events

July 8th – **TTR Trail Work Party** – West Side – Check the event on either the website of Facebook for address

July 12th – **TTR July Social Night** – Randy and Marcia Bickfords' home – 96 Summer St. Lisbon – Reminder that it is a pot luck meal!

July 14th – July 17th – **Out of Town Overnight Club Ride** – Moosehead Lake area – Greenville

July 22nd – **Out of Town Club Night Ride with Oxford Trail Riders** – Oxford - \$10 per person for this event!

July 29th – **Out of Town Club Ride** – Temple area

July 31st – **Monthly Meeting at 6:30 pm** - Exhibition Hall – Topsham Fairgrounds

Respectfully Submitted

Dee Blanchette

06/27/2023

No edits to the minutes were requested during the July 31st meeting. The June 2023 minutes were voted and approved during the July 31st meeting. JLL 08.01.2023