

Minutes from September 10, 2020 Meeting

Sundowners Snowmobile Club

Call To Order: 7:15pm at Charlies by President Richard Plautz

Roll Call: 20 members present. Elected and appointed positions as follows....

President Richard Plautz yes; Vice President Robbie Koepp no; Secretary Kurt Birkett yes; Treasurer James McCue yes; Directors Mike Shumaker yes, Tim Weber yes, Charlie Rusch yes, James Rece yes, John Sweeney yes, Aaron Lenox no

Trail Bosses: John Sweeney yes; Mike Shumaker yes; Jim Swon yes; Kurt Birkett yes; Tim Weber yes; Mike Bentheimer yes; Rollie Amundson yes; Charles Hendrickson yes; Jarrod Bublitz no; Robbie Koepp no; Archer Radke no; Brendt Keinbaum no; Aaron Lenox no; Craig Phillips no; Jamie Shelley no

Secretaries Report: Items discussed were: James McCue is the new Treasurer appointed by Richard due to no contact with Andy: \$200 donation to Gift for Kids to be presented at a later date: Updated webpage with updated photos and links is <https://sundownerssnowmobilers.com/>: Polaris Ride Command app or the web page <https://ridecommand.polaris.com/en-us/map> where you can find all of our trails and sponsors: Facebook page that has current information about meetings and other snowmobiling stuff <https://www.facebook.com/sundownerssnowmobileclub>: Getting your dues paid and finding new members: Thanked the two new members in attendance: Thanked Charlie for sponsoring the meeting: Thanked Two Brothers, Yetti's, Bargain Barn, Lakeview, Anchor, i90 Enterprises, Conroy's, The Buckhorn, The Island, and The Decoy for joining the club. Working on Showboat, Carl's Shell, Oberg's, Oasis, Rock River Marina, and others: Explained that out of the \$20 membership dues \$12 goes to the AWSC and when you pay you will be marked as paid with the AWSC then you can get your \$10 trail pass: Encouraged members to get paid up: Thanked the club for spending \$3750.00 for an attorney that stopped a threatened \$130,000 lawsuit from Rock County Alliance against our appointed and elected positions. Report Accepted

Treasures Report: James discussed the balances in the Bank accounts and PayPal account. The need to start fund raising again was mentioned. Looking to get the meat raffles going soon. Report Accepted

Presidents Report: On June 24, 2020, Attorney Duff Dillon sent a letter on behalf of the Alliance of Rock County Snowmobile Clubs, Inc. (the "Alliance") to each of the officers and directors of The Sundowners Snowmobile Club, Inc. ("Sundowners"). Mr. Dillon's letter threatened to sue Sundowners and its officers and directors if possession of the groomer, drag, rubber tracks for the groomer, and signs and related hardware for the snowmobile trails maintained by the Sundowners were not turned over to the Alliance by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020.

On Saturday, June 27, some of the officers and directors met with Attorney Bob Shumaker of the DeWitt law firm in Madison. As a result of that meeting, we retained Bob Shumaker and the DeWitt law firm to represent Sundowners in response to the Alliance's threatened lawsuit.

Bob wrote several letters to Attorney Dillon on behalf of the Sundowners and, based on

Bob's advice, we allowed the Alliance to take possession of the groomer, drag, and rubber tracks for the groomer. Bob's letters to Attorney Dillon reserved all rights that Sundowners may have including any claims against the Alliance for monetary relief.

Bob's letters to the Attorney Dillon and my correspondence to John Traynor, Rock County Park's Director, that I wrote with Bob's help, also addressed possession of the signs and related hardware for the snowmobile trails maintained by the Sundowners. Most recently, on August 25, I sent an email to Mr. Traynor stating as follows:

Our understanding is that the DNR provided the funds for the signs used by the Sundowners to safely mark the trails that members of the Sundowners were responsible for maintaining.

Yesterday, (8/24/2020) I and other members of the Sundowners delivered a letter from me to your office along with notices of cancellation of land use agreements/trail easements signed by forty-eight (48) landowners/renters with respect to approximately 55-miles of snowmobile trails that have long been maintained by members of the Sundowners Snowmobilers, Inc.

Given that these landowners/renters no longer have an agreement with the County or the Alliance- but instead have agreed that the Sundowners may construct, operate, and/or maintain snowmobile trails on their properties – Sundowners believe that it would be appropriate for the Sundowners to continue use of the signs to Safely mark the trails for which the Sundowners will continue to be responsible.

We hope that you will agree with our position. If not, please let me know. I personally thank you for your time on this matter.

We have not received any response to my email of August 25, and, therefore, we assume that the County does not disagree with our position.

Bob Shumaker has also helped us write a letter to the members of the Rock County Park's committee requesting that the Park's Committee recommend that the County Board review the 1981 Rock County Snowmobile Plan and consider amending the Snowmobile Plan so that the County can enter into a contract with Sundowners to maintain 55.5 miles of snowmobile trails in large areas of the County covering an area of approximately 113 square miles (13.3 miles from East to West and 10 miles from North to South).

The 1981 Snowmobile Plan provides that Rock County will contract with the Alliance to maintain snowmobile trails in the County.

We have explained that we believe that an amended Snowmobile Plan should also permit the County to contract other local snowmobile clubs to maintain snowmobile trails in their areas of the County.

County Supervisor Rick Richard, the Chair of the Park's Committee has informed us that our request will be on the agenda for the Parks Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

We hope that Rock County will agree to enter into a contact with the Sundowners so that we can obtain funding from the DNR to maintain our trails through Rock County. If not, we will explore that possibility of entering into a contract with another county so that we can obtain DNR funding for the trails we maintain. This could be Dane County, Green County, or even a county in a different part of the state.

It has also come to our attention that the Alliance's request for reimbursement that the Alliance submitted to the County for trails maintained by Sundowners may not be correct. Our attorney has advised us from making any statements about this that the Alliance might consider to be defamatory and suggest that instead we write a letter, with his help, to the County pointing out our concerns.

The DeWitt law firm submitted an invoice to us in the amount of \$ 4,779.50, but Bob Shumaker provided a discount of about \$1,000 to us so that we have incurred attorneys fees of \$3,750.

I suggest that we continue to seek Bob Shumaker's assistance and advice as we continue to address issues with the County and the Alliance.

Trail Report: Updates to the Polaris Ride Command app indicating club sponsors

Old Business: Morris Nelson's plaque was on display and the building of the memorial is in process. Hoping as soon as the crops come off we can place the memorial on the trail at the White farm. A 6x6 foot base has been poured and waiting for the memorial. A dead line of Nov. 1 is the goal.

New Business: A email will be sent out soon to all members and businesses to contact the Rock County Parks board members to persuade them to amend the 1981 snowmobile plan to allow snowmobile clubs to collect funding separate from the Alliance. We also want to control opening and closing of our trail system separate of the Alliance also. The date for the Rock County Parks meeting where we are on the agenda is Oct 13, 2020. Members stated that they were going to physically attend.

Announcements: Next meeting will be October 15th at Creekview 7pm. A directors meeting will be planned via email before the Parks committee meeting.

Adjournment: 8:14pm 59 minute meeting