

September 15, 2020
MAINE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
Director's Meeting 559
Secretary's Report

At 7:00 PM Mike Grass Jr. called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

President, Mike Grass Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Thanked Jack Lord for making arrangements for the meeting.

Motion was made by Larry Lafland and seconded by Dave Watson to accept the secretary's report as distributed, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by Lori Hemmerdinger.

Mike stated the creditline should not be needed if the membership funds start coming in as anticipated. Copy to be filed at the office.

Steering Committee consisting of eight members meeting almost weekly to take care of day to day business of MSA. Now running without an executive director, while gaining knowledge how the MSA will be managed now and in the future. With the effects of Covid it has been a blessing that didn't have the expense of the executive director. Lori has done alot of cost savings with the budget, Susan is doing a great job managing cost savings in the office.

Chairman of the Steering Committee, John Monk stated that the Legislators are not currently in session due to Covid. Because of the state of emergency, Governor Mill has proposed a 10% reduction in funding of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's many programs including the snowmobile trail program for the next year, (2021) budget. Our \$606 million dollar snowmobile industry is funded by \$4.8 million and the benefit work of so many volunteers. John encouraged everyone to contact their representatives and senators to try to curb this action. The MSA has discussed a \$10.00 increase for residents with \$5.00 being allocated to the trail system and \$5.00 to the Capital Equipment Grant and a \$20.00 increase for nonresidents with a \$10 trails system and \$10 Capital Equipment being allocated. John also requested that everyone reach out to their respective clubs and ask for a response in writing as to what they feel would be a reasonable/acceptable, club voted and supported registration increase. Your input is important to establish an average, which will be proposed.

Mike added that the Capital Equipment grants had 33 applications, and all 33 awarded, funded with \$430k from capital equipment and USDA contributing another \$411k, 7 new groomers going to Aroostook County, the others spread all over the state, all

different sizes. All 33 being funded has never happened. If we can get the registration increased it will be that much better for more reliable equipment.

Executive Vice President, Alan Swett thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thanked Jack Lord for distributing 30 of the club packets. He attended Lexington Highlanders cookout and enjoyed the best barbecue chicken over a grill and sold 300+ Super Raffle Tickets. Went to Kingsbury Off Grid Riders to check out their grooming equipment, "Quite the operation going on there". Al is anticipating another great year, even though things will be different. A lot of outside activities.

Northern Region, Matt Stedman gave his report from the comfort of his own home. Leaves are changing and picking potatoes. Distributing club packets and raffle tickets. Trail inspection and work has started early, really dry, where it normally has to wait til frozen.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland-Some clubs are meeting, some are not, doing things online, membership packets and tickets are out, and working on their February showcase ride.

Coastal Region, Dave Watson-Next meeting is Coastal Region Ossipee Mountaineers, East Waterboro October 20th no dinner. Fence building, brushing, signing started down South. Great to see so much activity, so early. Great winter, good times,

Mike Grass added new technology is new tonight, webcam and computer up front. This is our first meeting broadcast for anyone to view. Thanks to Bob Flagg.

Standing Committee Reports

Trails Committee, Mark Chinnock Told this is an early season by the number of emails and phone calls. Have all the mapping changes in by today's deadline. Contract has been signed between MSA and DACF Joe Higgins. Will get the new maps ordered. Scheduling workshops staying Covid correct. Mentioned other area issues and working through their issues.

In the absence of Beth Bowie, Mark Chinook made a Hall of Fame presentation to Gerry Major and Warren Emery. Paving the way since the 70's with 36" pipe drags. A video was shown of the two of them, showing pictures of the good ole days. Nice job John Monk for putting this together. Maybe viewed at MSA's sight.

Scholarship Harvey Chesley Look for the article in the upcoming paper. Thanked the many people and clubs that have helped this grow.

Safety Chair Al Swett Concerned with the anticipated increase in traffic, maybe more safety checks. IF&W will be laminating more posters. Unsure of the challenges faced with Covid and training in schools. Recognised that the snowmobile group is a unique bunch like no other in the state. Spoke of the dedication of the steering committee, bunch of hard workers and a very special bond between them. Optimistic that through these difficult times that we will become even stronger for the betterment of MSA.

Unfinished business: The motion was read as it stands. (previously motioned by Brent Spaulding, second by Dave Watson March 14, 2020 directors meeting.)

Section 1.

A. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly at a location agreed upon by Executive Committee members or by conference call.

Motion carried.

Few changes are coming with the newspaper; advertising rates, costs have gone up, MSA goals is to break even, not a make money tool, but a form of communication.

Super Raffle; Eboard voted to have another 20k tickets printed. Easy way for the clubs to make money.

Mike reiterated that Governor Mills is proposing to cut our trail funds capital equipment funds and our catastrophic funds (2021)! Our castotropic fund of \$100k that is available for a weather related event that happens. This is our funds, we pay to play. Concerned that our volunteers will loose their enthusiasm if their funding is cut, cause they are already spread thin and make their money go a long way.

New business: Our goal is to do seven papers this year.
Brad Barker has been appointed as Secretary for the remainder of the year.

50/50 Bob Flagg, who turned it back to Eileen.

Pot-O-Gold Bowlin-Matagamon S. C. Not present.

Motion to adjourn seconded and carried at 8:04

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Barker