

**April 17th, 2003
NH Mushers Association
Meeting Minutes**

This is the first meeting of a representative group of NH mushers. The purpose is to quickly find a way to address trail use concerns brought up at a recent meeting of the NH Statewide Trails Advisory Committee. Action of some sort seems to be necessary to preserve trail access for mushers. Tom Dimaggio is a musher from southern NH, a member of the above committee, gathered a representative cross section of mushers that he knew or knew of to attend this first meeting.

Attendance:

Tom Dimaggio	Candia, NH
Rhonda Hendry O'hearn	Sandown, NH
Jim Lalla	Bradford, NH
Leif Erickson	Gilmanton, NH
Bob Joy	Milford, NH
Bob Heckman	Kingston, NH
Keith Bryar	Moultonboro, NH
Donna Johnson	Webster, NH
George Cook	New Hampton, NH
Christine Richardson	Canaan, NH
Bob Spoerl	Bureau of Trails Representative

Issues that brought us together were identified as:

1. Mushers and snowmobilers coming into contact more often and in a confrontational manner too often. Steve Hesserts incident has brought this to light.
2. Snowmobilers outnumber mushers and contribute greatly to the state's tourism industry.
3. Mushers need trail etiquette education and uniform trail use methods need to be encouraged in order to secure trail access privileges in the future.
4. Biggest problem is reaching all mushers from large professional kennels to 1 dog recreational skijorers

Lots of discussion about what to do. Tom recommended starting an organization purely designed to unite and educate all NH mushers and be a representative voice.

All present agreed that a forming a non-profit organization would be the first step and to adopt "New Hampshire Mushers Association" as a name. Rhonda already had acquired the necessary nonprofit application.

The group then discussed the mission and articles of agreement for the new organization.
(see Bob Heckman's attachment for correct wording)

Potential Mission statement:

To represent and be a single voice for all NH mushers With the purpose of securing statewide trail privileges.

Potential Objects of Corporation:

- A. To unite all mushers in the state of NH for the purpose of maintaining and promoting statewide trail privileges.
- B. To disseminate information
- C. To speak for and represent NH mushers to other NH associations.
- D. To promote the safe and responsible use of NH trails.

More discussion about the Board of Directors positions.

Everyone agreed on the following appointments:

Length of commitment = 1 year

President -	Tom Dimaggio
1st Vice President -	George Cook
2nd Vice President -	Keith Bryar
Treasurer -	Bob Heckman
Secretary -	Christine Richardson

Project Coordinators:

Trail Rules -	Leif Erickson and Bob Joy
Safety and Education -	Jim Lalla and Donna Johnson
Membership -	Rhonda O'Hearn

It was also decided that a Trail Administrator would be needed. This person will be our snowmobile club liaison and coordinate musher's volunteer help and education with local clubs.... undecided

Tom also noted that we will need one person to be the actual face and voice of the group.
.....undecided

9pm came and went. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 8th in the same place (Concord) from 7 to 9pm. Object of the next meeting will be to finalize articles of agreement and discuss immediate goals and actions of the group.