

NHMA Minutes 6/12/03

Reviewed and accepted the minutes of the last meeting

Committee Report -Safety

Jim Lalla presented a draft of proposed safety guidelines he had prepared. It was reviewed and wording of a few paragraphs altered but as a whole it was deemed excellent. Jim will re-write and present the final proposal at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Publishing the minutes - The question is whether or not to publish the minutes on the Website. Tom Dimaggio suggested that an approved summary would be better. It was agreed that a simple outline of items discussed, documents/ideas approved and actions taken will be posted on the website.

Constitution and Bylaws - prepared by Bob Heckman were reviewed and accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

General Meeting - Form and forum for a general meeting was discussed. The general consensus is that we are not yet prepared for a formal meeting but a informal, informational get together focused on presenting facts, gathering ideas and sparking interest would be an excellent form for this first meeting. To accommodate advertising deadlines August 23rd from 12-4pm was chosen.

George Cook offered to host the social at Chinook Kennels in Wonalancet, NH. Other locations were discussed but the indoor/outdoor facilities and central NH location made Chinook Kennels the best choice. With no budget for this event, it was decided that a Potluck/BYOB picnic would be in order.

The picnic will be advertised via press release and website as a Musher Muster.

Next Meeting - The next board meeting dates were set for July 10th and August 7th. These meetings will be opened to the public. RSVP to Tom Dimaggio will be required so that we can be sure to have enough room.

General Discussion followed concerning where we go from here and what we should be focusing on.

Incentive for NHMA membership and involvement is necessary. We need to be able to provide something in exchange for the long-term attention of mushers.

An idea that was discussed at length was to be able to provide lists of trails with detailed "musher oriented" descriptions. Possibly linking to snowmobile websites and providing updated trail conditions with contacts.

Discussion turned to trail rules and educational guidelines. Pete Johnson offered to put together a presentation specifically for snowmobilers and snowmobile clubs. The group was wary of advising snowmobilers as we are not in a position to be telling them how to act but Pete felt that he has a good rapport with his local clubs and would know how to give information in a non-threatening manner. He was encouraged to draft such a presentation for review at the next meeting.

Discussion became fragmented but other detailed direction that we might offer mushers included:

- Signage
- How to run your team on the right
- Team control around snowmobiles
- Communicating with snowmobilers
- Landowners interpretation of winter use (don't have to allow mushers to be multi-use)
- Meeting closed at 9pm

Secretary's notes:

Press release and webpage ad were prepared and distributed to:

- Team and Trail
- Mushing
- ISDRA
- Nesdc.org
- Desdc.org
- Sleddog-L
- NHMA-L
- Shmushers-L
- Sleddog Central -Seminar announcement
- NHMA website

- A comment about our website. I feel that information on the home page must change regularly and reflect new news or events. Many people will look no farther than the home page for new news.

It takes an enormous amount of time to build a website and Jaye has done a great job. I think she should be included at our board meetings so she can know first hand what we are doing.