

MVTR GENERAL MEETING NOTES 4 January 2017
FREEDOM CYCLE - CONCORD

Presiding President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:15pm with approximately 55 members present.

Hopkinton Everett Riding Area

- Tom recently had a conversation with Chris Gamache, Bureau of Trails Chief, concerning the problems with ATV trail grading by the Bureau of Trails Regional Administrator for the riding area. This is after several discussions directly with the Regional supervisor. Problems include grading at the time of year when most prone to erosion, and very dangerous hazards such as corners being banked off-camber with a deep ditch containing large boulders at the outside of the corner. Chief Gamache's position is the regional supervisors knows what they are doing, and Tom's expectations are nothing will change.
- NOHVCC, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, will hold their annual conference in New Hampshire 22-27 August 2017. NOHVCC is a partnership of local clubs, State Bureau of Trails, and the National Forest Service to promote the development of OHV riding areas and local club maintenance partnerships. The Hop-Ev Riding area will be visited by the attendees, with MVTR guiding trail bike rides. An ATV club will be recruited to lead ATV rides. We should expect that the Bureau of Trails will want to spruce up the area in preparation.
- Andre Marois now has all of the parts to complete the snow drag he is building. He plans to use the old Grizzly 4-wheeler to groom OHRV trails for OHRV use. Next year we may apply to State Grant In Aid for reimbursement of this OHRV trail grooming.
- Andre has laid out a new two mile long technical single track trail near the Stark Pond trail. Andre will now mark it with ribbons. The new route must be inspected by the Bureau of Trails and Army Corps of Engineers prior to development. A vote was taken amongst the membership and this new trail will be named "Tuck's Trail" in respect to all of the efforts Alan Tucker has made over the years to promote the sport and maintain the Hop Eve trails.

MVTR Events

- A letter was received from the Shepherd's Pantry thanking MVTR for the \$1,442 donated from the recent John Ruffo Challenge held at the Landry Ranch.
- Tom cautioned Trail Bosses to be mindful that the suggested participant donation amounts to MVTR events be held reasonable – he doesn't want them to be cost prohibitive to families.
- All event literature should state "suggested donation" and not "entry fee" for legal liability reasons.

MVTR Administration

- A slate of Club Officers will soon be proposed for the upcoming election.
- An Executive Meeting of the current officers will take place in the next few weeks. Among the topics to be discussed is the synchronization of MVTR membership with the OHRV club incentive registration program which will go into effect in 2018.
- Club insurance is being investigated beyond what NETRA provides for their sanctioned events.
- Club incorporation as a Not-for-Profit with the State is being confirmed, and investigated for adequacy of legal protection.

New OHRV Laws in 2017

- There were numerous changes to definitions that resulted in few effective changes.
- The most significant changes have to do with enhanced penalties for trespassing.
- An OHRV user who damages a public trail on private property can be sued by the landowner for damages and legal fees, as well as facing enhanced State penalties.
- A recent issue that has surfaced is that a tree hugger in Claremont found that the Federal Legislation that made money available to States for some land purchases for trail development specified that the trails may only be used by snowmobiles in the winter and pedestrians in the other seasons. For this reason a trail corridor in Claremont was closed to wheeled OHRVs and another in Warren.

NETRA

- NETRA, GNCC, and the AMA will be aggressively cross checking competition licenses between themselves. Riders must consistently enter in the same A, B, C... ranking in each organization.
- The Snow Run Enduro in Stafford, CT will be 12 February.
- The White Fly Hare Scramble near Saratoga Springs, NY will be 26 February.
- Registration is open for the 24 Hour New England Challenge. Andre expects registration to be full by March.

Mass OHRV Meeting

Thayer Eastman reported on a recent meeting he attended which included State officials.

- Technically all trail bikes ridden in state require Mass OHRV registration, including out-of-state competitors, private OHRV parks, and landowners on their own property.
- NETRA has an unofficial hand shake agreement with the State forgiving this registration requirement for NETRA events. However, State enforcement personnel do make their presence shown at these events.
- A practical event permit system similar to NH may be developed, but it is a low priority to the State.

- The State is exploring a means of using Federal Fuel Tax money to develop new riding areas.
- Art Pepin has put a procedure on the MVTR website describing how to obtain a Mass OHRV registration for out-of-staters.

Miscellaneous

- There were no new members.
- There was no 50:50 raffle.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm