



## New Hampshire Off Highway Vehicle Association Quarterly Meeting

October 25, 2017

Minutes

Cannon Mountain

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Present: Jim, Dianne, Ken, Terry, Jenn

Regrets: Steve C.

Guests: Buddy, Tom, Steve W., Glenn

Jim will maintain his residency and will continue as President until the annual meeting in April. Steve Clorite due to other obligations he will not be able to run for President. As the Chair of the Nomination Committee, Buddy is actively looking for replacements for both President and VP. If that search isn't successful Jim is willing to continue longer until the club incentive program gets implemented with Executive Board approval.

Jim stated that anyone on the Executive Board could step in with legislative meetings needed. Glenn doesn't see anything on the horizon that would need attention at this point but Jim would set up some talking points and a comment record if needed.

Jim- we are going to exchange memberships with the NH Wildlife Fund, membership fees would be waived for each. Both entities work on similar issues, with the same agenda and would be able to combine resources.

Club Incentive Program- It's clear that there are a lot of issues to be worked out to get this program going the way it should go. Jim explained that we do have the option to postpone it a year if things are not progressing enough to put out a good successful program. Glenn explained this could be done with a letter.

Terry and Steve W. expressed that after some important decisions from executive board there shouldn't be any significant reasons to postpone at this time. They presented the group with a lot of information on a project plan and what decisions would be needed from NHOHVA to move forward.

The Executive Board agreed to the following:

- Approval of changing the name of the "Club Incentive Program" to:  
**NHOHVA Club Membership System** – this describes the entire process where the association is bringing riders and clubs together.  
**Club Membership Program (CMP)** – the tool that collects club membership information, calculate and processes fees and provides the rider with proof of membership.
- Approval of a \$2.00 transaction fee to offset fees from the payment service

- Approval to not provide tiered or sponsored memberships. Each club will continue to sell these through their own efforts.
- Approval to provide the rider to Opt In or Opt Out of a free NHOHVA membership. Per NHOHVA bylaws each club will pay a designated fee for each membership.
- Approved payment method for NHOHVA to send membership funds to the clubs by check vs. electronic means to save on further transaction fees.

Jenn will continue to work researching other payment service options and work with the programmers on getting both programs to work.

The CMP committee will continue to work closely with the PSU and Fish & Game.

### **NHOHVA Quarterly Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call at 6 pm**

Regrets: Ammonusuc Valley – John & Judy Bauer were not able to attend due to Judy's recent open heart surgery. We wish them well.

Review of clubs not in good standing – New Durham ATV, New England Mud Hawgs

### Insurance Report –Bryan Hadlock from Hadlock Group Insurance

- Advised all not use or promote the use of hand or light signals out on the trails. Agreed that training manuals need to be revised. Law suits are setting precedence faulting a rider who incorrectly signs that there is no traffic behind them, and there ends up being an accident.
- Proof of Insurance – reminder that if you putting heavy equipment on the state trail it's covered by the state. However, hired or volunteer sub-contractors must have their own insurance. With the club membership program Bryan advises to be sure that whatever payment service is used also has data breach coverage.

### Fish & Game Report – Captain David Walsh

- The rules are being revised but there are no big changes expected, except for the new registration fees. He is looking into the legislative audit from the AGs office about validating membership. Informational hearing on the rule changes will be scheduled. He will keep us informed.
- The online riders course will be revised regarding noise and hand signal use.
- Ted requested an enforcement report and expressed concerns over the absence of F&G patrols on a regular basis and the limitations of their own trail patrol. Registration funds should provide more enforcement.
- Officer Walsh stated that he is seeing roughly three accidents a day on the trails. There is no data available for non-trail users

### Trails Bureau Report - Chris Gamache-

- Provided handouts for the New Connector Policy for review and comment later.

Remember every permit is issued to the BoT not the club. Please route your requests through BoT as the point of contact. You have one year to get the work done and nothing will be grandfathered. Upgrades must be completed by Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2018.

- Trial Signs- the printing company made an error in the size. New ones will be coming for next year.
- The National Off Highway Conservation Council held their annual conference in Manchester NH this August. There were over a 135 people from the US and Canada.
- The BoT has asked for increased funding for F&G to put out dedicated OHRV patrols. Legislators have not been giving out funds.
- Chris expressed support for the CMP and explained that there may have to be some sacrifices to improve the system we have now.
- Rail Trail issues- SCATV is working on adjusting their waiver and it looks hopeful. Haverhill will have to write and submit their own waiver.

Treasurer's Report – The mail service down in Concord has not been forwarding mail. Please send all mail directly to Dianne's home. 552 West Unity Rd. Claremont, NH 03743. It was suggested and agreed that we discontinue the mail service. Dianne reviewed income and expenses. Motion to accept the report as presented made by Jenn, seconded by Ken, all were in favor.

Secretary's Report – Terry stated that she is now able to make posts on the NHOHVA Facebook page and offered to post any club news or events for anyone. Just email her with the information.

Terry attended the NOHVCC meeting with Jennifer and Tom and came out with a lot of resources that she is willing to share. SCATV has already benefited with a new free website that will be ready next week. She will email everyone with those details if they are interested.

The club incentive program is progressing with meetings with Plymouth State in September and another one scheduled next week. The Executive Board meet earlier to discuss operational decisions and it was agreed to now refer to the project as the **NHOHVA Club Membership Program** (CMP) This more clearly defines what we are trying to accomplish to the riding public.

#### Club Membership Program -

Harlan expressed concerns about landowners and honorary memberships.

But want proof of club membership for the registration discount. Buddy offered to pay their fees since it would probably be a relatively small number. It was explained that it was about the principle of allowing land access without any cost for the landowner. Brian suggested that a legal interpretation be sought. Jim explained that as it states in the by-laws "clubs will be charged for each member". This would include landowners who are given memberships for free. Jim agreed to cover 12 landowner memberships to work together with Ted.

Also, NHOHVA would not be processing tiered or sponsored memberships such as Gold, Bronze, and Silver. Each club will need to process those memberships through their own efforts either by their websites or in emails responding to members who join using the NHOHVA CMP.

Because each club will be paying for each and every membership per by-laws, each prospective member will be asked by the CMP if they would like to become a NHOHVA member Yes or

No. Please update your membership applications with this question and remove any language stating that they will be discounted if they joined NHOHVA through another club.

Jim stated that he and Captin Wimsat from F&G agreed to give Larry Gomes and Milan Tree Huggers a pre-assigned set of identification numbers for their members but we will not be doing that for any other club.

Jim and the Executive Board thanked all of the members of the Club Membership committee for all of their hard work to date.

#### Legislative Update – Glenn Wallace

HB237 Youth helmet issues will be going to a study committee. There are concerns with helmets being required for babies.

HB315 for raising the accompanying adults from 18 to 25 on roads. They want to tie OHRV laws to motor vehicle laws because of the size of the machines.

Loaded firearms will be coming back for discussion next year.

Glenn will keep us posted and everyone is welcome to sit in on the meetings.

Glenn also represents the NH Wildlife Federation. If reciprocating membership is approved we would be able to combine with their 20,000 members. It's the right time to join and he doesn't see any negatives to joining forces.

Jim met with Jim Morse from the NHWF and agrees that the time is right. Tonight the Executive Board voted and unanimously to approve membership between both entities.

Glenn presented a letter from the State Parks Advisory Council acknowledging and thanking Buddy Dionne for his public service in offering knowledge and expertise on issues. This letter was signed by the NH State Governor Sununu. Everyone congratulated Buddy for a job well done.

#### Grant In Aid Committee Report- Larry Gomes reminded everyone

Nash Stream – Larry Gomes stated that the last day for comments was Friday. In essence East/West connector that everybody wanted was killed by the court. They stated that ATVs are not a power driven mobility device therefore any disability arguments were dismissed. The Saunders connector is in the plan with a list of 9 things that need to be fixed first. Additional access will not be given. Access was lost initially because of an error in the BoT paperwork. Any new trails would have to be decided upon by CORD which is a group of state agencies that share the land. We could lose the deed in Stark. Without Nash Stream we could lose the road.

GIA Rules Committee- Larry Gomes, Brynn Rugg and Ted Burns put together a series of proposed changes that were emailed to everyone and reviewed in general today. The committee felt that the clubs would rather have 100% funds of a small project than 50% of a big project with the reason being that the smaller clubs just don't have the money to reach the GIA rates. Jim advised Larry to discuss that changes with Chris Gamache first to get a feel for things before the formal submission. General discussion: Harlan stated that he would like to see an option for

a general fund for maintenace throughout the year versus per project. This would allow for adjustments to be made as need, such as repairing unexpected storm damage. Byrnn supported the 100% request. The current system provides no benefit for clubs and volunteers to do the work and the current rate does not account for inflation in prices.

Larry asked for a motion to approve the proposed changes. Harlan made the motion to accept, seconded by Vern and the motion was approved by all.

Trail Enforcement Task Force-Discussion tabled due to Steve Clorite's absence

Jim-We are looking for a club to host the annual meeting in April. Buddy requested that it be scheduled before April 19<sup>th</sup>. He will be away traveling after that. There was discussion about having it up in Colebrook again or in a more central location. By the end of the meeting Andy Grignon from Mt. Moosilauke offered to host. Confirmation will be coming soon.

Jim stated that this organization is built on the backs of volunteers. We currently have a group of executive board members and regular members who are thankfully stepping up. But there will be two vacancies coming soon for President and Vice President. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if there is anyone interested in filling these positions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52PM

Submitted By: Terry Lambert, Secretary

Approved By: Jim Nutall, President