

American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
December 22, 2011

Members present: Bill Bauer, Jane Bidwell, Tom Duffy, John Garrett, John Kotar, Dennis Kruse, John Leighton, Sue Scheer, Joe Timmerman. Called in: Scott Chapin, Dave Nelson, Mary Wingfield. Not present: Don Becker. Also present: Ned Zuelsdorff, Shellie Milford

Meeting called to order at 4 p.m. by Sue Scheer, President

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss and possibly vote on the Hwy 63 Trail Head and potential start area.

Ned highlighted maps of the start area options including the Airport start, a second Telemark option (B). He commented that Option B would require the purchase of 15 acres of land from Telemark and that the distance from the start line to first climbs would be approximately 1K for skate and .7K for classic. This is similar to the Hwy 63 option.

The options for a Hwy 63 start are: Hwy 63A -purchase two 20 acre end-to-end parcels from Plum Creek which connect the Klebenow property to County Forest; Hwy 63B-purchase two 40 acre parcels from Plum Creek. If ABSF purchases two 20 acre parcels, the land would be out of the existing MFL (Managed Forestry Law) agreement and we would be required to pay a \$15,000 "penalty". If ABSF purchases two 40 acre parcels, the land can remain under MFL and there would be no penalty payment. If land is in MFL a mandatory trail fee cannot be charged for access to those parcels. Plum Creek would like to retain timber rights to the property. The cost of developing a start area and trail system would be approximately \$260,000 for Hwy 63A and \$276,000 for Hwy 63B.

For the Airport start option, currently Telemark has suggested an easement amount of \$60,000. For Telemark B option, Telemark is wanting \$105,000 for 30 acres of easement and purchase of 20 acres; 5 acres for storage facility and 15 acres for the start. For either of these options, it would be important to improve the back road at a cost of \$250,000 to \$350,000. Telemark has not formally approached the Town of Cable to improve the road.

This year, ABSF is paying Telemark \$25,000 for use of lodge on Saturday and easement on the trail. They are suggesting a \$35,000 charge if start moves to Hwy 63. Ned indicated that we paid the Hayward School District a \$7,000 donation for use of the Middle School facility as well as \$2800 for cost of using the Intermediate School for Dorm housing. In addition we donated \$2,000 worth of tarps that cover the Middle School gym floor.

Bill Pierce commented that trail access issues in terms of easements are important to consider. Shellie Milford commented on the logistical aspects of both starts, indicating the difficulty of access to the Airport start area and the relative ease of access to a Hwy 63 start. One of the most commonly expressed concerns by skiers is getting to the start. Scott Wilson did GPS work on the proposed Hwy 63 trail system. He feels that the trail is too difficult too early for the average skier. Ned indicated that in his opinion a trail could be developed that would be satisfactory to all skiers.

After lengthy discussion, Joe Timmerman made a motion that we purchase the Plum Creek (option B) and Klebenow property and move forward with developing a trailhead on that property. John Garrett seconded the motion. Sue Scheer added that any development would be contingent upon approval to cross Bayfield County property. Discussion included: concern about the long term viability of Telemark; access by easements to trail with airport or Telemark property start; question as to what Telemark will charge in the future for use of facility and property; desire to be independent of other entities and have ownership of the race. Comments also were: concern for ability of skiers to stay warm at Hwy 63 start; concern about relationship with the Cable community if start moves to Hwy 63; concern about difficulty of trail for the first few k's of Hwy 63 start; desire to work with Telemark to build a future for skiing.

Motion was passed by a vote of 7 to 4.

Sue Scheer commented that Board members should think about their responsibilities of being a Board member in future communications with the public.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Submitted by Shellie Milford and Ned Zuelsdorff