

**American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 15, 2010**

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

Meeting called to order at noon by John Leighton, Chairman.

*Approval of Minutes of Meeting of October 18, 2010.*

John Leighton asked that Jack Moin and Terry Penman's names be added to the Trails and Facilities Committee. John Leighton said that he would like Birkie Enterprises be a transition committee of ABSF with Sue Scheer being the Chairperson/Liaison of the Committee. Joe Timmerman moved to approve the minutes. Tom Duffy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

*Approval of Agenda.*

Don Maher asked that Ned comment on the Bayfield County potential land purchase program. Tom Duffy made a motion and Dave Nelson seconded the motion to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

*Facilities.*

Terry Penman presented detailed ideas for office remodel/expansion. Terry presented information which included the size and layout of the current office, the additional amount requested as proposed by the staff and additional needs according to codes. The office is currently 2,750 square feet and can expand 2,328 feet. Terry indicated that considering the ideal situation, the building would be approximately 5,000 square feet. The approximate cost for either remodel or tear down and rebuild would be between \$125 and \$150 per square foot. The tear down cost would be \$30,000 to \$40,000. Discussion took place regarding the best location for the office. Some of the considerations are ease of public access, convenience for staff, best location for Birkie Enterprises. Comments also reflected the importance of having a facility that reflects the tradition of the Birkie and is as efficient as possible. In addition, it was suggested ABSF contact realtors to see what is for sale in the area.

*Proposed Classic Trail.*

Dave Nelson presented proposed classic trail extensions from "OO" to Gravel Pit, Gravel Pit to Mosquito Brook and Mosquito Brook to Hatchery. He used topo maps with the current Birkie trail and proposed classic trail indicated. The classic trail would be on the east side of the skate trail until Gravel Pit then switch to the west side for the remainder of the trail to Hatchery. Comments and questions were: this would help grow the event by attracting more classic skiers; what would be the maintenance costs and do we have the equipment to groom the additional k's; how would the difficulty level compare to the current course; consider doing a survey after the 2011 event asking skiers whether or not they think we should extend the classic trail; perhaps trail fees can help defray additional cost. Ned suggested that it would be good to develop a 5-year comprehensive trail plan to take to the County. Dave indicated that it would cost about \$4500 per kilometer based on current estimates. Cost could go up.

*Trail Policy.*

Groomer Education. After discussion regarding groomer education, Dennis Kruse made a motion and John Kotar seconded the motion that the Trail Superintendent and groomers would be required to attend grooming school every year. Ned suggested that the groomers be given the option to attend, encouraging

them to do so. The motion was then amended to state that the Trail Superintendent would be required to attend groomer education and all other groomers would be given the option of attending. Motion passed.

Ski Track Configuration. There will be two sets of tracks set on one side of the course for the 2011 event. Concern was expressed regarding the 2010 event track setting on the Korte course as it switched from one side to the other. Ned indicated that adjustments are being made so that two tracks can be set on one side. Discussion took place regarding brush and soft snow on the edges of the trail. Paul Pedersen made a motion and John Kotar seconded the motion to set the classic tracks on the classic trail one week to ten days before race day. After discussion, motion failed.

#### *Board Questions for Executive Director.*

Ned indicated that the option for skiers to utilize their own bags is not going to happen for the 2011 event. One of the reasons is because of the problems and cost of labels.

Ned commented on the Telemark sale and land situation. The State of Wisconsin has limited stewardship funds which can be used to acquire 500-750 acres which would become Bayfield County land. No development would take place on the land. The Bayfield County Forestry Committee will be considering this idea. Ned indicated that there are buyers still looking at a Telemark purchase. Questions were asked about the need to raise money and the registration cut-off/deadline. Comment was made on the need to quantify whether or not this is working. Ned commented that the cap is related to assuring the quality of the race.

#### *Board Questions for the Treasurer.*

Joe Timmerman commented that the checking account balance is high, but this is held for payment of the new Pisten Bully. Question was raised that, should ABSF begin development of the classic trail extensions, do we want to consider keeping the old Pisten Bully. Consensus was that this is an administrative decision. Comment was made that ABSF needs to prioritize and we need to give the skier the best quality event that we can.

#### *Community Relations.*

It was suggested that community relations need to improve. Bill Bauer made a motion and Joe Timmerman seconded the motion that, as a matter of policy, the ABSF shall maintain an active year-round program of community relations. Motion passed.

#### *Accommodations.*

Discussion took place regarding the issue of accommodations for skiers. Several ideas were briefly discussed including: the office offering help in finding accommodations for skiers who request it; support to hotels and motels out of the area to have busing available for skiers. Currently the office collects information from area motels, hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc., and offers this information to skiers requesting it via a spreadsheet which can be mailed or emailed.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Submitted by Shellie Milford and Ned Zuelsdorff