



Oxbow-Masardis Snowmobile Club Meeting

Minutes - Business Meeting 3/12/24

The meeting began at 6:20 pm with 8 members present.

President's Introduction & Report (Scott Soucy):

Scott welcomed the group and deferred his items to a later point in the agenda.

Vice President & Project Director (Gary Currier):

- Gary will be submitting groomer hours for reimbursement.
- It was questioned when OMSC has the opportunity to request a grant this year so Gary will speak with Joe Higgins re: grant timing and the groomer issue.

Secretary's Report (Leslie Currier):

- Minutes were previously distributed via e-mail and posted on the OMSC website.
- A motion was made to accept the minutes as written - seconded - club members voted to accept.

Treasurer's Report (Sabrina Soucy):

- January '24 ending balance \$27,520.76
- February '24 income \$1,140.00
- February '24 expense \$6,951.61
- February '24 ending balance \$21,709.15
- Expenses reviewed and discussed.
- A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report - seconded - club members voted to accept.
- Timing of next fuel purchase discussed. As Bates fuel will have off-road fuel available the 2nd week in November, the consensus was to purchase at that time as opposed to this spring.

Committee Reports:

TrailMaster report (Lenny Duckett):

- Various signs, including road crossings, have been removed. Remaining signs will be removed when the ground is dry, and trails are accessible.
- Scott will be contacting a Masardis landowner regarding a re-routing of the trail.
- Gary would like to see the club address the river trail this summer, with the landowner's approval.
- The PistenBully is currently in Ashland at the repair shop and it is anticipated that work will be completed there. We are awaiting a quote. Eventually the machine will need to be transported to Auburn for system flushing so it was decided that the PistenBully would be transported sooner rather than later if the work cannot be completed in a reasonable timeframe. Scott will check on the status of the groomer and the work.

Website & Facebook (Seth Thomas):

- Facebook and website touches are all down commensurate with the lack of snow.
- Initial review of the possibility of e-membership has been completed and should be possible. This could require an upgrade to our website plan to incorporate payments and processing options.
- Will bring more information to the next meeting for more detail, requirements, and possibilities.
- It is likely we could likely also do away with GiveButter as well if we upgrade the site for donations.
- Givebutter amounts for the season have been processed and sent to the OMSC bank account \$175.

Meetings, Events & Fundraising:

- Nothing to report.



Membership (Audrey Currier):

- Audrey was not available to attend the meeting; membership numbers were not updated. A brief discussion was held regarding the timing of this year's membership renewal letters; to be discussed further.

Building Committee (George McPherson/Gary Currier):

Gary reported on behalf of the building committee, which was tasked to investigate options for a groomer shed taking into account the current property and its buildings. It has been previously determined that there was not another viable location in Oxbow. An approximate cost of \$80,000 was determined, less any in-kind donations that may be received.

In communicating with the Land Use Planning Commission, it was determined that current zoning for the lot would require that the house and garage be removed before a groomer garage could be built and it would need to sit on the west side of the lot. The lot consists of two deeds which have two different zoning classifications: residential on the east side and general use on the west; however, if combined for the build of a new groomer shed would need to be combined for only one purpose (zoning).

In the fall of 2023, the Oxbow Community Church members began discussions about the ability to maintain both the church and the community center. The potential for the community center and its land being made available to the OMSC resulted in further discussion with the LUPC. The additional land expanded the options for the new groomer shed. At the meeting, input from the LUPC along with sketches of the options were distributed.

Very briefly, the options are as follows:

1. remove the house and garage on the OMSC property, build the groomer garage on the west side of the lot - the non-residential portion (M-GN zone) of the lot.
2. remove the house and garage on the OMSC property, request a re-zoning of the residential portion of the lot to M-GN, enabling the groomer shed to sit anywhere on the lot, in accordance with zoning setbacks, etc.
3. with the addition of the community center lot, there would be the square footage and road frontage to expand the legally existing non-conforming use (community center in a residential zone) to include the groomer garage as an accessory structure once required permits were obtained.
4. with the addition of the community center lot, create an L-shaped lot (community center land plus a portion of the OMSC land) which would house the community center and the groomer shed, enabling the house/garage to be sold on a smaller yet adequately-sized lot.

Options 1 and 2 require the removal of the house and garage at an estimated cost of approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Option 3 would not require the house to be removed and prevents the house from being sold. Ownership of the combined lot would need to be determined - OMSC, the church, or a 3rd non-profit.

Option 4 allows the house to be sold such that the proceeds could go toward the new groomer garage. Again, ownership of the combined lot would need to be explored, likely involving a new non-profit entity with all parties' considerations put in place legally, similar to option 3.

The pros, cons, and implications of each option were discussed by club members present at the meeting. Due to the limited attendance, it was felt that next steps actions should be discussed and voted on at the next OMSC meeting with hopefully a larger turn-out, as this will also be the official election meeting. This also allows time for the church members to explore and finalize their next steps.

Old Business:

- Mailing Address - the official address for the club will be PO Box 333, Ashland, ME 04732
- Revised Membership Application - donation line added, mailing address updated
- Process for trail updates - The process for updating the website and Facebook page put into place at the last meeting were successful for the short time it was used.
- Feasibility of receiving memberships/donations through OMSC website - This is possible, more research to be done regarding fees, transfer of money, etc. Also, a QR code update might be appropriate.
- MSA on-line application process - Scott initiated a discussion with Matt Stedman, to be continued.



New Business:

- Slate of Officers for the Upcoming Season - The nominating committee recommended the current slate of officers continue into the next season. The value will be the continuity. The concern is that we have fewer members who are able to or who choose to participate in club activities, both leadership and events.
- Date for Summer BBQ & Potluck - The Landowner Appreciation, Club Member and Community Member BBQ & Potluck will be held on July 20th.
- Summer meetings - The group felt that planning meetings and work days through the summer would be beneficial. Dates will be set during the April meeting.

Adjournment

Next Meeting will be held 4/9/24 @ 6:15 pm hosted at the Oxbow Community Center

Brief follow-up on Winter Carnival orchestrated by Friends of Oxbow