

White Mtn Nemba Chapter Meeting
September 26, 2017
Whitaker House

Amanda Tulip called the meeting to order at 6:12pm. She introduced herself to everyone as our new president of WMNEMBA. She would like to add to our current structure by adding 3-5 people to our trails and community/advocacy committees. She feels by adding and diversifying we may be able to capture a piece of market segment that we have been missing.

Season Recap

Trails Committee Report

- Marshall Conservation Area
 - Hired Don Johnson of Forest Land Improvement & extended a half mile of Lucille's trail (trail that connects to Red's)
 - The snowmobile club did some work on Red's and it is now no longer muddy.
 - Earl Sires has done a lot of work connecting the 2-Up trail to Lemon Squeezer.
 - Working on the Quarry Trail – hand built, slowly evolving. The plan will continue it to connect to Lager's Lane.
 - We also built and installed Muzzy's Bench and put in the bike repair stand.
- Albany Town Forest
 - Mike Steward reported that volunteers were spending upwards of three nights a week doing work and there is still a lot of work to be done. Gravel has been approved to fix the wet areas.
- West Side
 - Chris reported noticing ridership has been siphoned off a bit due to the expanded trail network and some areas could use some attention – overgrown vegetation, etc
 - Echo Lake is looking great and burned in nicely.
- East Side/Redstone
 - John has done an outstanding job fulfilling the Nature Conservation's request to reroute Outer Limits. He has put in many hours and the trail is riding really well.
 - Jeff, Paula and Butch have done a lot of work on EKG – Chris K. had redesigned and flagged it last year to make an easier ride up. There is still more work to be done here.
 - Chris K. has also done reroutes above and below the Quarry.
- Hurricane Mtn
 - Alex received approval for the new trail by Red Tail this spring. The upper section is now rideable and the lower section is 95% cut. The brontosaurus has been in and out doing work in this area.
 - We used our July Sunday work day on this trail and Red Tail. Chris noted the work held up very well after the downpour of rain we got. He also made some other adjustments afterwards while the dirt was wet.
- Our total number of hrs for actual trail work season to date = 683.5 hours. This does not include route finding. We have over 50 sanctioned and 27 unsanctioned trails in our network.

- A note was made that there have been a lot of non-NEMBA members out there doing trail work. It would be a good idea to work closer with them.

Treasurer Report

Phil has been out but wanted to thank everyone for all the hard work they have done on the trails. He has just come back from trips to Alaska and Montana and wanted everyone to know what we have here is really good. He also complimented the group on how money is made and spent.

- Balance 12.31.16 = \$10,431.78
- INCOME:
 - DUES \$1230.50
 - NEMBA GRANT \$ 500.00
 - FLATBREADS \$ 672.00...
 - S&D BIKE SWAP \$ 186.00
 - MATTY B'S \$ 159.00
 - TOTALS..... \$ 2847.50
- PLUS BEGINNING BALANCE = \$13,279.28
- EXPENSES:
 - MUZ MEMORIAL \$ 1449.35 This was split 50/50 with Velo Club
 - TOOLS/GAS/OIL \$ 261.95
 - WORK WEEKEND \$ 362.20
 - SIGNS \$ 251.41
 - KHS MTB RACE \$ 100.00 Donation
 - BIKE FOR BOOKS \$ 250.00 Donation
 - SUN ADS \$ 138.00
 - RED TAIL WORK \$500.00 Forest Land Improvement (Don Johnson)
 - TOTALS.....\$3312.91
- PRESENT BALANCE.....\$9966.37

Phil reported our ending balance year over year.

- 2013 = \$5,000
- 2014 = \$6,800
- 2015 = \$7,200
- 2016 = \$10,500
- There are two pending expenses that have been approved by the board that have not been accounted for.
 - We will be buying a grip hoist (\$1300 range) and a power wheelbarrow. Alex asked Rob to spearhead the wheelbarrow buy.
- A question was raised about acquiring grant money.
 - Rob explained that this is usually done on an as-needed basis for big projects. He gave an example of the 50' bridge that was put in by the police station and the bridge at Pudding Pond.

- A motion was made and seconded to put something – ex. scan code, on all kiosks that would easily show how to donate to WMNEMBA for anyone who would like to do so. Shannon noted that the link to donate on the website is broken.

Community/Advocacy Report

- Shannon and Pat Noonan were praised for their efforts in keeping the social media pages going.
 - Shannon explained that the Facebook account had been set up incorrectly as an “individual person”. She has now corrected that and set it up as a business and a group account. She will fix and install a new “donate now” button.
- Jean and Muriel reported that the Flatbread fundraiser went well this year and it was decided by the group to keep it scheduled during the summer season instead of the fall.
- Bike for books is this weekend, come out and ride if you can. Also, any help taking down signage that may still be up after the event would be appreciated – either take it down or just let Chris K. know where it is.

Group rides

- Shannon has been leading “Bikes, Boobs and Brews” a non-NEMBA ride for women on Wednesday afternoons.
- There is also a ride for older folks on Mondays and Fridays called “Old Spokes”.

Landowners Report

- Chris Myers and Rob have been meeting on an as-needed basis.
- Rob noted that he has spoken to Ben Wilcox from Cranmore and Ben is very receptive to contributing in any way that Cranmore can – also he noted that if WMNEMBA wanted to hold a “big” event that would be fine.

Proposed Spending

- The question of paid trail work was raised. Should we hire a professional trail builder? Hire local folks per diem or continue to just use volunteers via TNT and monthly work days.
 - Alex brought up the point that hiring local folks would cost much more than just their hourly wage. This would involve much more expensive costs including worker’s comp, etc. The thought is to keep using volunteers and donations (ie Lucy donates machine time).
 - Lloyd thinks a discount for NEMBA members’ tools would be a nice idea.
 - Grant money should not be used for brush cutting and drainage work.
 - We should start using our Forest Service partnership more.
- Peter Minnich raised the issue of electric bikes and feels a policy for general riding areas will be needed in the near future. Rob explained that the suitability of riding is determined by each individual land owner.

Proposed Winter Activities

- We decided to table this discussion in the interest of time.

Committee/ officer selection

- A listing of offices and duties were distributed amongst the group.
- Officers and committee members were voted on and confirmed as:
 - President – Amanda Tulip
 - Vice Presidents – Alex Leich, Chris Lewando and Mike LeBlanc
 - Secretary – Shannon Dunfey
 - Shannon passed around signup sheets for the trails committee and the community/advocacy committee. The trail committee will meet afterwards and elect a leader (someone with expertise in communication). They will also assign “zones” to each member.
 - The landowners committee will remain as Rob Adair and Chris Meier.

New Business

- Jeff Lathrop shared and submitted his idea of a new WMNEBA management structure with the group. He feels there are a number of very talented people available who are not being used as resources and not enough members of management in each role. He also feels the website should be updated with a list of all the officers, job titles and contact information.
- Jeff also brought up the need of a map for local first aid and fire responders with locations highlighted for easiest access and transportation needs in all the different sections of trails we have. Alex mentioned that if this information does not meet up to state or federal standards, it may be dismissed.
 - Rob said Greg DiSanto of Plymouth has offered to make a USGS map of all the existing trails that we could put on the kiosks.
 - Chris Lewando is also considering making a map.
 - Alex noted that trailforks.com and mtb project have a lot of our trails available on line.
- Al raised the issue of trail directional signage and/or bike trail designation signage. For instance, he has seen people pushing baby carriages up Shumway with no idea bikers could be barreling down the other direction.
 - Rob noted these are multiuse trails and signage would need to be coordinated with the land owners.