



## PAUL BUNYAN RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

P.O. Box 61, Lakewood, WI 54138

March 2021 Newsletter

Our March 9th, 2021 meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Dennis Pommering, with 26 members present at the Firelite Bar. A motion was made by Tim Maurer and seconded by Larry Mertz to approve the previous February newsletter that contained information from the February Board meeting minutes. M/C.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was given by Julie Pommering and a motion was made by Toby Warden and seconded by Patty Martin to accept the report. M/C.

**Secretary's Report:** Diane Fitzpatrick gave the secretary's report. There are currently 421 primary members including booster members and 28 secondary members for a total of 449 members. A motion was made by Jim Asher and seconded by Larry Mertz to accept the Secretary's report. M/C

**Trail Report:** The trail report was given by Bob Prasser. The trails are closed but there is still work to be done on the trails to widen them in certain areas and cut down leaning trees. Bob complimented the great team Paul Bunyan has for grooming trails and they did the best they could given the limited amount of snow. Members commented on the wonderful trails Paul Bunyan had this year and a round of applause was appreciated! Dennis added given the short season there were still 334 grooming hours this year, which has been submitted to the county for reimbursement. He also mentioned the additional work needed on the trails will now be considered non-grooming trail maintenance, which is also funded by the county. Dennis spoke about the mandate that all grooming machines must have GPS units in them by November 2021. Paul Bunyan was one of the clubs that had GPS units his past year and it was very helpful because the grooming data automatically up-loaded to the Grooming Tracking system in real time. A motion was made to accept the trail report by Brian Fitzpatrick and seconded by Robbie Juran. M/C

### **Old Business:**

**Snow Fun Day:** Julie gave a financial update to the success of the day. Given the comments received from guests and members, changing the raffle ticket to \$2 was very successful (and profitable). Dennis noted that because we needed to draw for the traditional (pink) Raffle Tickets, the \$100 (blue) Raffle Tickets and allow an opportunity for the Poker Run Books to be returned anyway, the Board had decided that a 4-Hour event was needed. This allowed us to include a 25-spin meat raffle to fill the dead time between drawings. We also created a plan that would meet all the Covid-19 protocols that would allow us to keep our workers as safe as possible. Many good comments were mentioned and round of applause was given.

**Groomer Building Improvements:** Bob Prasser said the building is doing well. Even without a heater on the cold side, the building stayed warm enough with the ceiling and wall insulation to melt the snow off the groomers and drags. In past years, bogie wheels would break from the ice freezing on the tracks, but none were broken this year. Tim Maurer made a suggestion to give Bob Prasser the authority to complete the floor drainage issue, but Dennis assured him that Bob had not used all of the money that was allocated to the building project, and that the drainage improvements would be done before the next snowmobile season.

**Numbering of the Paul Bunyan Trail Segments:** Dennis explained that the Oconto County Snowmobile Alliance Committee had approved the new trail numbering system that would be similar to the current Dept of Transportation (DOT) mapping system used today. The odd numbers will be for North and South trails and the even numbers for East and West trails. He emphasized this will help visitors to the area be able to navigate throughout the county more easily. The current maps will be in effect for one more year, and the changes will take effect on the 2022-2024 map.

**Loan Payment:** Julie explained that a five-year loan was taken out last April in order to buy the Blue Ox. However, given the financial strength of the club the board decided to pay off 2 plus years of the loan. By doing this there will be less interest and the goal is to get the loan paid off in less than half the time.

**Funding of Wheeler Lake Trail and Grant Requests for Trail Rehab:** The Wheeler Lake trail starting at Trail Locator 652 for about three miles through the woods to Wheeler Lake Road will be funded this year. A Grant Request was made for trail rehab of the Peek Road trail from Locator 675 to about a mile through a wet and muddy section that made it difficult to groom because of the damage from off-road vehicles. The goal is to add pit run and gravel to prevent damage to the snowmobile trail in the future. Further north on the same trail the Crooked Lake ATV Club has been using grant money to rehab their section of trail that we use when the snowmobile trails are open. A second grant was requested for a section of our Chickadee Road trail north of Locator 657 where there is a major washout exposing rocks and boulders. Again, pit run material and gravel will need to be added to cover all the exposed rocks. By looking at the pictures without any snow, it appears it could be a safety issue if not addressed.

#### **New Business:**

**Brat Fry's:** Diane reported there are two brat fry's scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>. There are two groups that will be taking responsibility for each one of these. They will be reaching out to members if more volunteers are needed to work them.

**Club Elections:** Dennis explained the changes to the by-laws that were ratified last September. This year the Vice-President, Administrative Secretary and three Board Members were up for re-election. Jim Wisneski was running unopposed, and when Angel Barber decided to not run again, Amy Klapper was nominated, and was also running unopposed. The three Board members on the ballot were Dean Martin, Larry Mertz and Toby Warden. Jim Juran was nominated previously and was put on the ballot. When Dennis asked for any nominations from the floor to be added to the ballot, the only nomination came from Toby Warden who nominated Josh Hoffman and Larry Mertz seconded the motion. His name was added to the ballot and the ballots were dispersed. After the ballots were counted, the three current Board Members were re-elected to their positions. We would like to give a big "Thanks You" to Angel for her contributions this past year, and congratulations to our Officers and current Board Members.

**Clothing:** Brian Fitzpatrick had club clothing including hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts available for sale.

**Door Prize:** A \$10 Gift Certificate was donated by Firelite and won by Ron Schmocker.

**50-50 Raffle:** The amount of \$47 was won by Doug Vanden Langenberg.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Mauerer and seconded by Robbie Juran.