

Rope Tow Meeting Minutes March 16, 2018

Questions and comments are in *italics*

Call to order: Francine at 6:01

Attendance: Francine Bowman, Mike Roberts, Antonio Houde, Donny Bowman, Dianne Rappa
Also 14 community members on "sign in" sheet.

Summary of Project Hopes: Restore a rope tow at the lodge to be open to residents of town of Haverhill for at least first season. Possible snow making goal for the first season along with the rope tow. Discussion with Dianne Rappa considering making it public access outside of Haverhill may be the only way to apply for a grant. Dianne and Francine will look at the grant requirements.

Project to be done through fundraising, not tax dollars

Looking for ideas for fundraising

Q and A Discussion and Comments

Mary Houde: *what about renters of Mt. Lake properties, would they have access to the hill ? (for later discussion)*

Dianna Rappa: *Can't close the mountain to the public? Cannot be selective on who can come, because Monteau is public as well as the town of Haverhill - if we are to apply for funding, mountain cannot be limited to only Haverhill residents? Comments followed that Monteau is owned by Mt Lakes, not public property. (we will find out what the grant application requires)*

Mike Roberts provided letter from Mt. Lakes outlining the "phases" that need to be in place and approved before we can move to the next phase. On phase 1, is stated that we can *only able to accept pledges* until we have direct plan in order.

Operational hours may be similar to Kanc ski hill (Lincoln) - after school/convenient hours to ensure that the mountain can stay open with only volunteers. Dianne stressed the importance of possibly opening weekends and holidays only.

Mary Houde: *make sure that we have enough positions filled and to ensure that they are filled with salaries/wages? It will depend on funds received.*

Mike Roberts: *He went out to Corinth and concludes that it is purely volunteer run, no snow making, they have grooming equipment, two old vehicles used to drive the tow - one tow operator - one rope tow, one t bar - possibly one individual at the top of the slopes. Smaller hill powered by Dodge Dart, larger powered by pickup truck.*

Francine: *possibly a one year plan - done by 2018, must discuss snow making to ensure snow on the hill - Francine had spoken previously with Don Drew who said he can locate the piping, some of it is visible and he may have parts in storage. Steve Robbins (not present) offered to help with project such as the well diversion and the ground preparation in the spring/summer.*

Mike Roberts: *looking at the project in three phases 1. Planning - ask committee to develop detailed plan - only looking at main trail (the one still visible), building at the top of the slope with electrical devices and hardware and that we should utilize the materials left over as much as possible, plan should include list of options (possibly a commercial option), detailed timeline, list of resources, set of minimum requirements, development of emergency plan, plan to be presented back to commissioner for approval. 2. Execution 3. Operational phase - checklist, review, system goes live, target is to go live winter of 2018.*

Chris Demers: *Have we thought of having an outside company lease the land and set up a ski area?*
Francine stated that Commissioner Long had encouraged this recommendation (outside company) as an avenue to pursue, but the original committee members would rather it be more like the old Monteau, not commercialized. (Not very fond of the idea of outside company)

Mike: Needs to be included as an option as part of the planning stage.

Dianna Rappa: *I was ski patrol, district manager, hired and investigated snow engineering at Moneau, district felt that they could not operate with taxes - it was leased - then tried to get the district to take over again - snow making was the main culprit of losing control of the financial operations, hours of operation were weekends and holidays, woodsville ski team came some afternoons, when it was sold off it was decided the lights would be kept as well as options for snow making, went to the district to investigate if the rope tow could keep going - 11,000 in insurance, insurance only 6000 now? Suggests 6-8 feet around poles, used to have space in shack for sleds, need at least two certified ski patrol (don't need two on at once) as well as two sleds (one at top one at bottom)*

Mike Roberts - estimated insurance of 9-10,000 but will be talking further with Insurance as we progress. *Ski at own risk brings down cost of insurance, hesitate to get snowmaking as well as opening during the week and only if conditions are good.*

Camila Salomoni: *Mt. Eustis is all volunteers, started charging for snowmobile rides to top of the hill in order to fundraise. There is a type of tensioner or bull ring at the bottom, when the tow is running must have person at top and bottom.*

Zachary Smith: (present): *I have a lot of interest in the Monteau project, works at Blackmount, would love to help out, a gator with tracks maybe.*

Mike Roberts - majority of discussion should be done in district meeting

Permission needed form Mt. Lakes

- Clearing trees underneath the rope and volunteers/leader
- Grooming the hill - have to start working on the grass to prepare the slope - bush auger
- Divert existing capped well - Francine previously talked with Steve Robbins and Don Drew- not a hard project - Steve willing to help
- Open bank account

Mt lakes should take care of the well. It is needed regardless, hill is muddy to maintain presently.

- Grant application - define role of Mt Lakes District to apply - need permission from Mt. Lakes to accept application for grant

Volunteer Discussion: For Daily Operation of the Rope Tow

- Can we get enough volunteers to run the project, enough funds to pay salaries?
- Woodsville high school ski team, any residents,

Chris Demers: *Capacity of how many skiers the slope can hold?*

Mary Houde: *Keep in mind how many people can fit in the lodge.*

Francine Bowman - grant up to 30,000 dollars if received.

Mary Houde: *with that money we must establish a capacity.*

Antonio Houde: *Usually it has to do with how many people can be on the rope tow at once.*

Mary Houde: *Possibly get benchmarks from Corinth.*

Fundraising

Pick a dollar amount as a goal - Francine: *Town of Corinth said 30-40K Mt .Eustis spent 100K+.*

Mike Roberts: *We must first develop needs and costs to determine an actual dollar amount as a goal.*

Dianna Rapa: *how much is district willing to be responsible for the mountain?*

Mike: *-no budget item, only approval to explore*

Who is the liability going to fall on? Who collect profits, etc?

Mike: *district is secured by company called Primex - they do not cover the rope tow-rope tow will be self funded*

Dianne Rappa: *Tow was self funded because they had income from tickets as well as a grant for snowmaking.*

*Opening up bank account, how can we have a bank account? Where would pledges go? some options - ski monteau pins - great logo, buy the pins to fundraise - box of 300 pins, patches. **Dianne is willing to donate \$ 500 for the project right now!***

Brad Farr: *Wade Piercome from Corinth suggested that the best way to begin to fund the project is to start a non-profit so that it opens the doors for grants - Wade Piercome*

Mike Roberts: *stated that snowmaking today is much cheaper than it was 30 years ago.*

Dianna Rappa: *Need applicant and agent for grant application (we will need Mt. Lakes District to have a roll in the grant application, once we determine parts of the required "Phase 1" from the district.*

Camila Salomoni : *Had some great input regarding Mt. Eustis, as Camille and Scott Rutherford (Little Grille) were very involved in the Littleton project. Camille offered to talk with Dave Harkless (Mt. Eustis) and Mr. Lahout (Lahouts of Littleton) to ask if they are willing to share information about their plans.- many items were donated or built by volunteers.*

- Advertising - Haverhill Recreation is very interested to help advertise this project when needed

By Annual Meeting on March 24, 2018

Prepare informational handout for the residents of Mt. Lakes

Someone should make a rope tow presentation at the annual meeting. (Mike Roberts possibly?)

Action List

Action list discussion of priorities: Since this is our first meeting, the actions need to happen according to the phases mentioned above. Discussion followed with a wide variety of points being made.

Goal is to get phase 1 in writing first for approval from the commissioners.

Main physical project is clearing trees and salvaging what we can of existing motor wheels, etc.

Mary Houde: *cousin restores things and would be happy to get involved, will talk to him*

Brad Farr: *stated that he could get/ provide telephone polls.*

Dianne Rapa: *need in writing volunteers plans etc as part of phase 1.? Getting a commitment from a volunteer to do a task would satisfy "an estimated cost" of certain steps. (covered for those activities)*

Brad Farr: *We should go over outline of what needs to be done, first step should be clearing the trees, what do we need before we work on the trees?*

Mike: *need to have funds raise(how, who), plan detailed, what has to be done and how it will be done as well as costs.*

Chris Demers: *If we have volunteers, once work is started, doesn't think that ALL funds need to be verified (could lose donations) stated that if it doesn't cost the district money, why would we need to have the all of the funds verified to do "volunteer work.?"* Discussion followed that even though there is volunteer work being done, with not cost to the district, it still needs to be in writing to describe how it will happen.

Dianna Rappa: *prep phase, prepping the mountain.*

Mary Houde: *should break approval into stages?*

Mike Roberts: *verify each stage with commissioners, intent is to plan as many details as possible*

Mary Houde: *will district continue to pay for power going to the lodge/slope*

-no, it would be distinguished

Collect work pledges - people committed to do an amount of work

Antonio Houde: *clarified how to use the facebook page*

Mary Houde: *why can't we just have Sherri Sargent post updates on the Haverhill Rec page/s?*

-we can, great way to spark interest Francine will get in touch with Sherri with updates

Francine Bowman - *will add people to email chain as needed*

Robert Roudebush: *does this committee intent to give regular reports/updates at the monthly meetings?*

-it is a requirement, handouts will be created for annual meeting

Mike Roberts: *project was an interest of the town, it was on the master plan, all info will be on email chain*

Mary Houde: *Mt. Lakes needs to make a very specific and professional and solid email chain, to ensure all information is being distributed. Discussion followed that individuals are responsible to call the office to get themselves "put" on the email list if they are not receiving them.*

Robert Roudebush: *Kristi will add anyone to the district email chain who asks her.*

Set up meeting dates:

Meetings will be once or twice a month and public, TBA

Mike Roberts moves to adjourn at 7:17, Francine seconds, motion approves.

