

Minutes of the Nova Scotia Mountain Bike Trails Association
2011 Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday, April 10, 2011

Location: Mona Campbell Building, Dalhousie U., Halifax

Attendees: Tom Kavanagh, Sue Earle, Troy Turple, Shawn Skelhorn, Matt Rockwell, Lawrence Plug, Kaarin Tae, Darrell Cooling, Sherry Huybers, Chris Davis, Scott Walsh, Duane Moase

- 1. Meeting called to order.** Approval of Agenda by Lawrence, Seconded by Darrell
- 2. Regrets:** None Received
- 3. President's Report (Tom):**

The Nova Scotia Mountain Bike Trails Association was formed in March of 2010 by a group of concerned mountain bikers across this great province of ours, in response to losing our favorite trails to the chainsaw of corporate Canada. Although Nova Scotia is over 70% wooded, there are no dedicated mountain bike trails on province property.

NSMTBTA is committed to securing government support to create and maintain trails for riders of all abilities.

Currently in the works:

Designing a logo and gaining exposure

Selecting land in conjunction with Department of Natural Resources to begin working

Working with D.N.R. to keep the Cape Split trail system open to bikers

Working with HRM Water Commission to save the Spider Lake trails

Lobbying for changes to the Nova Scotia Trails Federation Handbook to include mountain biking

Calculating the results of a survey NSMTBTA designed and distributed to local cyclists.

Working with Forest Heights High School in Chester Grant to develop nearby trails on crown land. Young adults from the school will be helping to design and build these trails

Watching current trails and mobilizing to keep them viable

Working with the N.S. nature trust to develop and maintain trails in the Herring Cove (Fight trail) area

Our future looks bright. In the current climate of high obesity rates and sedentary lifestyles, the government is looking for ways to get people moving. Our long term goal is to have one or more dedicated mountain bike trail per region of Nova Scotia, enabling close access to all cyclists.

- 4. Treasurer's Report (Darrell) :** We had 31 paid members in 2010 / 2011. These memberships allowed us to finally pay off our insurance and we will renew the insurance again for the 2011/2012 year.

Action: Sue will email Eliot again to follow up on the logo.

5. Committee / Area Rep Reports:

HRM Bike Week Committee Report (Lawrence): We participated in HRM's Bike Week last year, running a clinic as one of the events. Although Lawrence won't be available this year there may still be time for us to get involved if anyone is interested. Bike Week is the first week in June this year.

Gorefest (Mike Phillips): Mike was not present, however we discussed our involvement with the upcoming Gorefest. It was noted that we need to get pamphlets or some sort of information to hand out at such events.

ACTION: Darrell has a contact who is a designer. He will look into having brochure designed.

Annapolis Valley (Mike Hutchinson): Not present

Highlands (Sherry): Pictou Country currently has money allocated to trail development and they have plans to create a trails position. They are starting to maintain trails as a part of the community health plan.

South Shore (Matt): The Totem Trails project at Forest Heights Community School in Chester Grant is still awaiting the final approval from DNR. In the meantime Matt and Darrell have done a second scouting trip on the property. We will set a date and start marking trail on the Easter weekend so that when the approval comes from DNR we will be ready to start building.

Fundy (Duane): Duane expressed interest in stepping down as the Fundy rep.

ACTION: Tom will contact Bruce Roberts for suggestions for a

replacement for Duane.

HRM (Shawn): The media is reporting that parts of Whopper are about to be developed. We have been aware of this impending development for some time but to our understanding only a small portion of the trails in Whopper will be affected.

6. Election of Officers

All Officer positions were elected by acclamation. The Officers are:

President: Tom Kavanagh

Vice President: Lawrence Plug

Treasurer: Darrell Cooling

Secretary: Sue Earle

The new Board of Directors will include the four people above as well as: Scott Walsh, Matt Rockwell, Shawn Skelhorn and Sherry Huybers.

7. BNS Merger:

We discussed merging with Bicycle Nova Scotia. Lawrence presented our "ask" list to those present, as well as draft By Laws pertaining to our group. (The proposed Integration Terms and By Laws are attached as separate files at the end of this document.)

Motion (moved by Tom, seconded by Troy): The Nova Scotia Mountain Bike Trails Committee should merge with Bicycle Nova Scotia pending acceptance of our proposed ByLaws and Terms of Integration by their Board.

The motion carried with 9 votes in favour and 2 people abstaining.

ACTION: Lawrence will send our proposal to the BNS Board. If it is approved we will become a standing committee of BNS until their AGM in November.

8. Other Business Arising: No Additions

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 3rd at the Split Crow in Truro, 7:30 pm

ACTION:Sherry will make arrangements

10. Motion to Adjourn: Troy, seconded by Scott

ATTACHMENTS:

Recommended steps for integration of NSMTBTA with BNS. **Draft, 10/Apr/2011**

The NSMTBTA forms a new independent BNS committee with a mandate for MTB-trail advocacy. The current board system of the NSMTBTA is retained.

The current BNS MTB committee would be renamed "MTB Competition".

Startup fund of \$2000 is provided to the MTB-trail advocacy committee, to be used primarily for trail tool purchase, payment of arrears in 2010 insurance, support for a trail-building and -management course in 2011, brochures, operating costs, chain saw certification, IMBA conferences.

Expectation of an annual operating budget of ~\$2000 to the MTB-trail committee, for insurance, communication costs, workshops, operating expenses..

The MTB-trails committee may apply to BNS board for extra funding for, e.g., capital projects, one-off expenses.

The MTB-trails committee may raise funds independently, to be used toward it's own operating expenses and projects.

The BNS membership system is revised to include, for example, a new 'supporting member' category (\$15) as outlined in proposal by L. Plug to BNS board in March/2011.

A section of the BNS web page is given to MTB-trail committee news and content.

MTB-trails participates in BNS's representation on the NS Trails Federation (ideally there would be two BNS representatives: one from Touring and Trails committee, one from MTB-trails committee).

NSMTBTA/MTB-trails writes bylaws establishing and defining the new committee, and chooses it's name subject to approval by BNS board.

Integration is effected immediately by means of standing-committee status for the MTB-trails committee, to be voted upon for permanent adoption at the 2011 BNS Annual General Meeting.

The MTB-trails committee reports on it's work and achievements to the BNS board, and via submission of material for general BNS communications (e.g., President's Letter to members).

The MTB-trails committee communicates the importance of integration with BNS to it's members and contacts, strongly encouraging them to continue to participate in MTB trail advocacy by joining BNS.

The MTB-trails committee assists where appropriate the goals and projects of other BNS committees (e.g. Touring and Trails, Road Advocacy, MTB Competition), in order to support BNS' overall mission of cultivating a broad and inclusive cycling culture in Nova Scotia.

SECTION 18 MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS COMMITTEE (or maybe Off Road Advocacy... ie. ORA?)

15.1 The Mountain Bike Trails committee shall comprise of the following positions:

1. Vice President of Mountain Bike Trails committee
2. Associate Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Regional representatives from:
 - a. Fundy
 - b. South Shore
 - c. Highlands
 - d. Cape Breton
 - e. HRM
 - f. Annapolis Valley
6. Any other Bicycle Nova Scotia members wishing to serve on the committee
7. BNS President (ex officio)

15.2 COMMITTEE MANDATE

Promote, develop and maintain trail systems for mountain biking in Nova Scotia:

1. To promote and develop facilities for offroad mountain biking in Nova Scotia, including construction of new trail systems, securing access to existing trails, insuring trails, and provision of infrastructure including bridges, terrain features, parking, and signage.
2. Towards (1), to communicate and co-operate with other groups including, but not limited to, private landowners, all levels of government, regional MTB trail advocacy groups within Nova Scotia, and national and international MTB groups.
3. To support education of cyclists on safe and environmentally responsible offroad riding.
4. To devise and carry out other fund raising projects for program support and for development of offroad facilities.
5. To represent the interests of mountain bikers on the Nova Scotia Trails Federation, by the Vice President of the MBTC or designate.

15.3 COMMITTEE AUTHORITY

While respecting and giving the committee room to grow, adapt, change and conduct its own business, the Board of Directors reserves the right to question and if necessary, veto any policy proposed by the Mountain Bike Trails committee.

15.4 VOTING

Each member of the committee shall have one vote. In the event of a tie, the Vice President may cast the deciding vote.

15.5 REMUNERATION OF THE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS COMMITTEE

The members of the Mountain Bike Trails committee shall be entitled to a reimbursement of approved out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

15.6 Decisions regarding MBT Committee expenditures must be approved by majority of the Committee.

