

MINUTES FROM BIRCHLEGGINGS CLUB BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

Before the Board Meeting Jim Tenorio, (JT) with help from Steve Carmazon , Ed Eroe and Paul Thompson installed 3 sets of cross country skis in the ceiling and on the wall of the Birchleggings Club warming hut at Mosquito Brook Road. Two of those pairs of skis were from our deceased board member Cheryl Hiltibran, to honor her memory, the other pair was from current board member Paul Thompson, in honor of his recent 40th Birkie. JT also replaced a burned out light bulb in the ceiling fan, and unsuccessfully attempted to replace 2 of the spotlight bulbs facing the east wall posters. It was determined, and communicated to ABSF maintenance staff members that the spotlight receptacles may need replacing, due to the wall switch change from a timer to a switch. We await further information, as to what needs to be done.

Also, before the meeting started much admiration and appreciation was extended to board member Connie Meek, for her incredible solo progress in staining the exterior walls of the hut a beautiful light blue, again, THANK YOU CONNIE!

The board meeting finally began a few minutes after 3 PM. Those present were board President Gale Otterholt, newly established Vice President James Tenorio, webmaster Ed Eroe, Secretary Steve Carmazon, Connie Meek and Paul Thompson. Missing was newly elected board member Ralph Bovard. Treasurer Dave Balsiger, and newly appointment replacement for the last year of Cheryl Hiltibran's tenure, was Bob Britz , both of whom attended virtually, as long as they could, because of poor volume sound levels and difficulty understanding the ongoing conversations. Special guests were Birchleggings Club founder John Kotar, Joe Vadeboncoeur, ABSF COO, and Andrew Wall, ABSF Development Director.

As most of what this board meeting needed to discuss, and accomplish, was centered around a memorandum of understanding and agreement between ABSF, and the Birchleggings Club, Joe Vadeboncoeur spoke first, we went through the agreement line by line making comments and slight clarification corrections to the document. Joe was quite clear that ABSF was NOT Willing to allow our club to use the copyrighted name "American Birkebeiner" on our awards, or as part of our logo, WITHOUT our agreeing to, and signature of the document, NOT for financial reasons, but to protect the copyrighted name from unauthorized use and dilution. The biggest points of concern were over our clubs desire to have access to the Birkie Race registration list, especially for those skiers about to ski their 20th Birkie. Joe was adamant that ABSF cannot and will not share that information with us, or anyone due to privacy agreements. Another concern was the ability for ABSF to end this agreement for NO CAUSE, it was strongly felt by Ed Eroe, that the agreement Should Have A CAUSE REASON, based on his years of negotiating contracts.

The document did NOT spell out ABSF agreeing to our club having a Birkie Expo Booth at no cost to our club, as we have had, since we have been present at the expo. It also didn't spell out that our club would have input to yearly Birchlegger bib design, and a link from the ABSF website to our club website, as at least one board member expressed concern over. Club president Gale Otterholt expressed his concerns over what responsibilities and actions the ABSF staff would have towards the design, cost,

manufacturing, distribution, and availability of the 20, 30, and 40 year awards.

Joe assured us that the awards would be available to eligible skiers at a location near the Birkie finish line, would be transferred by Birkie staff personnel to our annual awards breakfast for our distribution, and ABSF staff would transfer and store those awards at a ABSF location and expense.

Those awards that weren't picked up at the finish line area, or breakfast award ceremony, would be available to be shipped to the recipient at the recipients request and expense.

After much discussion and input from nearly all present, including our club founder John Kotar, the document was formally signed by Joe Vadeboncoeur, on behalf of the ABSF and Birchleggings club president Gale Otterholt. All of the above took well over an hour to transact. The remaining discussion was an update from JT on the installation of a metal frame and rubber bumpers on our bell that's at the Birkie Trail divide area.

Also discussed were the four ABSF key initiatives.

1. Telemark development recreation destination area.
2. Extending Birkie brands for ski, bike, run, and live.
3. Birkie one- measuring the ABSF around Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, Gender, Race, and underserved local populations.
4. Birkie Green Initiatives:
 - A. New Birkie bibs are made from approximately 5.5 recycled plastic bottles.
 - B. Upcoming solar arrays at Birkie HQ, and at the Samuel C. Johnson family outdoor center at OO.
 - C. ABSF goal is to be "Carbon Neutral", includes the possibility of purchasing carbon credits.

The meeting ended about 5:15 PM with the decision to hold our next board meeting on Friday January 14, 2022. Submitted for your approval.

Steve Carmazon, Secretary