

North Country Mushers  
Annual Meeting October 29, 2022  
Meeting Minutes  
Held in Person at Branch Brook Campground, Campton NH

Board Member Attendees: Jaye Foucher, Steve Jaillet, Patty Richards (absent Steve Renner and Corina Alexander)

Members attending campout and training weekend (please excuse name spelling) Ingrid Bower, Dawn Jaillet, Jess Kisman, Kim Murphy, Peggy Grass, Jen Albern, Caitlin Kelly, Elizabeth Stornbridge, Brad Frohloff, Laura Rushfelt, Ann and George Cook (Kaitlin and Kate), Kim and Kelly Bergs, Phaneufs, Coffey's, Peggy Kipp, Therrialt's, Amanda Poquette, Jaye Fouche, Megan Moberly, Dylan/Alexis, Alison Noonan, Kristen Reardon, Marla Bb, Nova Clifford, Rachel Medina, Doug West, Mike Green

Meeting called to order at 12:19

### **Old Business**

- 1) Treasurer Report: (Delivered by Jaye in Steve R's absence) The club has \$13,961.52 in the checking account currently. There is one outstanding check for the tent rental at the trade fair that has not cleared the account yet. It was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$725, so that amount out of the current available balance is already spent. Of the available balance, \$9,703.08 is net revenue accrued for GNW race over all the years that event has been hosted by NCM. We do not have a final tally on the trade fair yet.

Group Discussion: Steve R had issues with accounting software and Jaye recommended the first order of business for a new treasurer is to find a new software package. Elizabeth S. noted free software is available such as wave app. The Board agreed to let the treasurer make a recommendation for the accounting software.

### **New Business**

- 1) NCM Races this season:

- a) New Vermont Race Lamoille Valley Rail Trail **Jan 28-29, 2023**

Discussion: This is a two day race on the rail trail in Vermont for both sprint and mid distance teams. Mike Green and Doug West from Vermont provided an overview. Steve & Dawn Jaillet, as well as Ingrid Bower and Patty Richards are also working with Mike and Doug to organize the race. The rail trail is being worked on by state of Vermont. Dog team turnarounds are being worked on by Mike and Doug.

Race classes & start order:

- 20 milers go out first (need to be done in 3 hours)

- Sprint Portion (follows 20 milers after they take off)
  - 2 dog, 4 dog, 3 dog junior, skijore)
- 6 dog, Unlimited (minimum 7 dogs) – leave after lunch

The group seeks to offer purebred classes in both sprint and 20 mile run

Also race will hold a mushers meeting/dinner Friday

NESDC (New England Sled Dog Club) – will cover purse for sprint classes and handle entries for sprint classes

NCM (North Country Mushers) – 20 miler: NCM will cover purse and registration for 20 mile class, Siberian Husky Club of America may provide trophies for registered class in both 20 miler and sprint but we need to apply for it (apply to Joe Fitzgerald).

Saturday dinner being planned as well as awards lunch

If there is not enough snow at time of event, they plan to modify race format to include tandem sleds, tour sled, 2 people teams

Mike and Doug also planning same location race event Feb 25-26, 2023

- b) Pop Up Races: George and Ann Cook are planning for Pond Safety race in January if there is sufficient snow

- c) Blue Mountain (Grantham NH) Race Feb 19,2023

Discussion: Elizabeth S. is leading this race. 18 miler looks good. Logging improved some trail sections. She is not sure about the 30 mile yet as she hasn't been able to get onto the trails to see what the logging activity has done. Snowmobile club is involved. She will have a trail sweep snowmachine for last racer.

- d) Stage Race March 10-12 NH

Discussion: Jaye started off describing event with Steve J and Ingrid adding in too. Three day race event second weekend of March. Day 3 at Coleman and use dining hall. May do awards ceremony at Coleman as well. Working with Scott DiAllage for purse total of \$3K. Ingrid and Sandy D head up food and dinners. Danler raffle discussion was held. Group agreed to ask Pete & Donna Johnson to be race marshal (Ingrid and George Cook to follow up with them).

e) Wonalancet NH (Dawn J gave update) end of February 14 miler

f) Sandwich Notch – General discussion followed about this race as well.

## 2) New/Potential Off Season Events

a) FastCat at American K9 – Jaye reported looking into a spring and fall event

b) NCM will be taking over the sled dog showcase to be held spring 2023. Alternate it each year but next year is NCM's turn. Discussed partnering with Yankee Siberian

c) Trade Fair

Discussion: Many feel it is stale and lots of discussion generated. Talked about NCM keeping it or turning it over to vendors. Some want a mentoring program and talks for beginners. Talk of combining trade fair with the camp out training weekend. Include new items like agility and talks about off season training, making lines, wilderness medicine, etc. Feeling of group is to keep the event but combine it with training weekend like the campout. Jaye will talk to trade fair committee and discuss NCM feedback with vendors.

## 3) Retiring the Points Program

Discussion: Jaye made general announcement that the program has ended. It is not achieving intended results. Many points are going to mushers that would have participated in events without the program. The report is that it is not creative incentives for new mushers and rather rewarding those that would participate without the programs.

## 4) Open Discussion/ Suggestions from General Membership

Discussion:

Standard Race Rules: The group talked about benefits of standard rules. Standard race rules don't exist other than ISRA. Committee was formed to review issues

as well as consider ISRA rules and make a recommendation to NCM. Support for uniformity but also don't want to make rule adoption a long and drawn-out process. Elizabeth and Kaitlin Kelly will meet and make a recommendation to NCM Board in next few months.

Musher Community: Jaye brought up inclusive community she experienced while in Alaska. She feels New England has become splintered and she wants to encourage others to work on developing a supportive musher community. New England should be encouraging others, be considerate, put on more events like the leap frog training, share experiences and train together. General overall discussion of how do we encourage one another ensued. Spread of the sport and support for mushing also discussed by joining up with snowmobile clubs and being good ambassadors of the sport.

#### 5) Fall Elections

- a) Treasurer: Lara Renner nominated and voted in as treasurer
- b) Vice President: Steve Jaillet nominated and voted in as VP
- c) Member at Large: Ingrid Bower nominated and voted in as Member at Large

Everyone thanked Jaye and other Board members for their work.

There was a very positive feedback about the campout and many enjoyed the structure including leap frog training.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.