**NHARA Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of Zoom Meeting**

**April 24, 2023**

**Present:** Board of Trustees 16

 Programs/Mountains 7

 Guests 8

**BOT:** Dan Marshall; Laurie Stevens; Bev Oliver; Rebecca Bell on line; Jason Gilbert; Aaron Loukes on phone; Deb MacMahon: Matt Purcell; Greg Gill; Arnie Huftalen; Eric Price; Ben Drummond; Tori Amorello; Bill McQuade; Dave Edry; Trevor Hamilton.

**BOT Absent:** Ted Sutton; Leanne Smith**;** Andrew Gannon; Tim Smith, Ivar Dahl Jack Iacopino.

**Guests:** Kathleen Badger; Scott Wilkinson; Carl Anderson, Jill Firstbrook; Mike Hammer, Todd Harris, Aaron Diers, Richie Scanlon.

**I. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.**

Kudos and thank you to all who pitched in to make this season so successful. In addition to COVID concerns, Mother nature certainly made life difficult at times also.

**II. Secretary’s Report**: minutes of the last year’s meeting were sent prior to this meeting.

 Motion: To accept the minutes of the 10/25/22 BOT meeting as printed.

 Jason Guilbert/Matt Purcell/Unanimous.

**III. Treasurer’s Report**: Deb MacMahon.

 All is well. Results so far are pretty much according to projection.

**IV. Executive Secretary’s Report:** Laurie

Numbers are down a bit from last year, in pretty much all categories – 1,919 total compared to last year’s 2,005 total. Seeded-277 versus 251; U16s -307 versus 280; U12-U14s 782 versus 731; U10s – 313 versus 278; Supporters 39 versus 20; Coaches; 287versus 305. Neither Dartmouth or PSU have joined so far this year. In prior years Peter Dodge paid for all their members in a lump sum. He has retired. Roughly 500 new members this year so far. Most of our membership, (96%), is registering on line.

Can be tweaked a bit better for next year. A plus is that all coaches can sign up on line and pay by credit card. Laurie is able to access the information and adjust as needed. This info needs to be sent to all the clubs for next year. Donations this year were $495.

There are 26 active programs. Most of the head taxes are in. Just waiting for a few championship head taxes.

It should be noted that Alex Krebs collects the head taxes now. There is roughly $10, 000 from memberships or late fees this year. There were no questions.

**V. Committee Appointments Arnie**

There are 26 spots on the NHARA BOD, 21 of which are currently filled. Scott has revamped the way race scheduling occurs now.

Motion: That one of the available spots on the NHARA BOT be filled with Scott Wilkinson. A. Huftalen/B. McQuade/Unanimous.

**VI. Committee Reports:**

1. ACC**:** Andrew Gannon not in attendance. Following is his report - submitted a bit later.

There is not much to say right now. The competition calendar went along pretty well this year at all levels.

Andrew personally attended a lot of competitions at all ages. As a state NHARA is doing very well at the highest level. Rocky and Central dominated, but NHARA did very well. The coaching and clubs worked well together. Dealing with Mother Nature was a community effort. It was a very good season with the least number of concerns at the membership level this year. There as a tremendous amount of effort at the membership level. Hopefully, over time, this can be streamlined better.

There were no disciplinary issues this year. There were climate challenges. COVID is still a problem, particularly with FIS level racing. However, this past season was more like a pre-COVID year.

To be noted is that USSS racing is becoming less and less now. FIS racing is growing.

1. State Chair: Bev:

A lot of time was spent verifying with the USSS version and adding the FIS components to the NHARA membership updates, a major job again this season. Unable to go lower than the U16s due to time constraints. Results will be shared with Scott per his request in order to help the racers register properly with Ski Reg.

There were no state quota selection issues as there were no Devo races this season.

There was Divisional FIS racing in NH, but these races were not subject to State quota selection rule.

Also, Jack and I work together scoring the Macomber and the LaFoley race series. Some of the results this year came in a form that was difficult to compute.

Scott suggested that we let Scott know of any problems, good idea.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the successful ski season this year. It was truly a team effort.

C. Coaches Council: Eric

There is not a lot to report. There is not a whole lot going on since COVID. Jill Firstbrook is trying to be a speaker at the national meetings. There are plans to run a Fall Festival in conjunction with the Fall mid-October Eastern meetings. Eric sends information along to everyone as it comes in. He would like to schedule a Zoom Coaches Council meeting after this meeting and the Children’s Committee meeting in order to review the year and keep everyone up to date. Just a note that New York has Sasha giving a talk in New York in October. Jill is trying to get him to be a guest speaker for NHARA this fall. Also trying to get Sam or Scott to speak to NHARA this fall as well.

Dan said the national meetings this spring (14th-17th of May) will be available by Zoom as well.

D. Alpine Officials – Arnie

This year was a pretty good year for Alpine Officials. NHARA has 3 new committee members as well as TDs, Ben Drummond, Andy Locke and Scott Wilkinson. Currently USSS has 6,788 alpine officials, of which the Eastern Region has the majority of officials, 3,000. NHARA currently has just under 730 alpine officials, the most in the Eastern Region of the eight divisions.

This past season the AO committee hosted 14 clinics, down from 18 last year. Nine were in person, 5 were zoom. This is still too many. Most of these were Zoom update clinics and were well received. There were roughly 250 in attendance. This is significantly less than last year and could pose a problem down the road. Volunteerism is on the wane.

Arnie reviewed some of the ways that are being planned to address this.

Some changes to requirements include a softening of requirements for Level 3 TD and for Referee, that shadowing be a recommendation, not a requirement, and creation of a number of videos which address what each of the positions requires. An example of a good video to watch is the B net video.

There is currently a need for more referees. More coaches need to get a referee certificate.

It also should be noted that the number of head injuries is growing.

Regarding race scheduling for next season: Race scheduling dates for the 22-23 season have not been set yet.

E. Children’s Racing: Matt Purcell

Report from the ECC meeting. There is continued emphasis on any type of qualification. The U14 Eastern Championships went well. Butterfly seeding was used. This worked out fine, although there were a lot of complaints about it. This method will continue to be used at the Eastern Championships.

The U14 the Can Ams at Tremblant was a little bit disorganized. There were a number of issues, most regarding access to tickets, also lost the skills quest day due to rain. The event will be in the US next year (Sugarloaf, Sunday River, or Mittersill?).

There were a number of camps that were generally well attended. There were six camps scheduled for the season. One was lost due to weather. Most of these were centered around fundamental skill development. A goal for next year is to run one or two pace camps together. One of the2 SG camps scheduled was held. Weather was a problem.

The NHARA Children’s Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1. There still is a lot of support for our Youth Development Director. The camps are vital for improvement in skiing ability. Funding for the position is an ongoing discussion. Roughly $10,000 was raised this year through the camps alone.

The ranking races are an issue as well. Other topics include challenging our athletes more and developing a program for U10 skill development.

There were no questions for Matt.

F. Handbook: Rebecca, not for the time being.

G. College: Trevor: Sent a report. Nothing much new to report.

Dave Edry would like to discuss how to get more college racers involved in order to help with reduction of penalties.

Just a note that the FIS calendar is done, for the first time in a number of years this early. It probably will be out and available shortly.

H. Prep School: Ben Drummond

Not much to report. Things were pretty much back to normal this year In the Lakes Region Division here almost 2 races weekly on Wednesdays. Hosts varied. Meetings are currently being held for planning next year’s event as well as possibly the following season. The planning has fallen primarily to Julia and Ben as they are the ones who have the strongest skiing background and there is a lot to consider when figuring out hosts for calendaring races. Ben mentioned several possible hosts for next year as well as the venue.

I. High School: Aaron; from a car.

The 2022-2023 high school ski racing went extremely well. There was a lot of success in all four divisions. The races were back to full capacity. All the state championships were highly successful and the meet of champions went very well. More officials are need on the hill.

Dan: At the Eastern High School Championships at Mittersill. There were a dozen states almost 250 athletes. There was a SL for Men and Women and a Men’s GS and a Women’s GS. Michigan won both the girls and boys overall team result. This was the 44th year for holding the event. Next year the event moves back to Bear Peak.

J. Masters; Greg

Greg is now the Eastern representative for Masters on the EACC. The report sent out explains the collaboration between NE Masters and Mid-Atlantic Masters. This was done to help increase the number of racers. Six races were scheduled that were sponsored by the mid-Atlantic group as well as New England Masters. Something new was two races, which meant 4 runs. The ski areas like this as well. There was a lot of success with this. Masters training continues to grow also, particularly in NH. There are at least half a dozen spots during the week where there is training. Bill McCullom’s family has given the Foundation side a gift of $10,000 to the capital fund drive in Bill’s name. Also, there at least 2 people each year in New England who become certified referees.

The Foundation is going into its ninth year. $30, 000 in scholarships have been given out. The lion’s share has gone to NH and VT. Masters has its first perpetual endowed scholarship in the name of Bill McCollom this year. A $2,000 scholarship was given to someone from Ragged Mountain.

K. Racer Support: Gilly

Six or seven of requests have come in already. Expectations are that there will be a larger number of requests this year, perhaps three or four more as there were more qualifying results for national events this year. Can Ams, Sugarloaf, U16 Nationals, Vail event. There are a lot of coach’s kids in the mix these days.

An issue is convincing kids that one needs to race in order to get better at racing. More thought needs to be given to scheduling events as well. Young athletes need to be challenged more and the right venue is needed, at least for the qualifiers, to get better at racing.

Dan: mentioned that financial support can be requested from EASEF as well. EASEF has more money to give than NHARA. It is o.k. to contact both NHARA and EASEF for financial support.

1. Review/Appeal: no Ted

There were no issues this year.

1. Industry: No Ivar. Dan gave a brief report.

Supply chain issues are still a problem. That, plus freight charges, availability of raw materials and the Ukraine/Russia issue as well as China are causing problems, less so on the alpine side, but still a problem.

There are challenges but all is o.k. so far.

1. Ski NH: no Tim Smith
2. Website: no report

**VI. Adjournment**:

Next Meeting**:** Annual meeting 6:45 pm followed by NHARA BOT meeting at 7:00 pm Monday, June 5, 2023 Mittersill Performance center?

Motion: To adjourn themeeting at 8:17 p.m. E. Price/A. Huftalen/ /Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Oliver

Secretary, NHARA Board of Trustees