

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting

7/11/07

Call to order: Whipple called meeting to order 12:10 PM 7/11/07 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Quorum: A quorum was established, with Whipple, Saltonstall, Shaw, Harrington, Hansen and Foreman and present.

Approval of Agenda: Saltonstall moved to add "Eco-Challenge Project" to new business. Foreman seconded. Carried 6-0. Shaw moved to approve the agenda as amended. Harrington seconded. Carried 6-0.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Shaw moved to approve minutes of 5/29/07. Saltonstall seconded. Carried 6-0.

Old Business:

National Trails Day: Harrington reported the NTD event was held as planned on June 2nd. Due to the scarcity of good weather up to that point, graduation week and other events, turnout was poorer than expected. It was a good learning experience for how to have trail events and raised awareness about Trails Day. She suggested we try to rally people around a work project next year. Whipple added that for such a new organization to pull together an event like that on short notice, any turnout is a success.

Summit Lake Trail project: This summer marks Phase II of a 2-year grant to the KSWCD from the USFWS. Island Trails Network was asked to handle logistics for the event and organize the volunteer work. We had planned for a July trail work event but funding hangups and logistics have delayed until August.

In late May, Whipple and Schroeder rode the trail with Sam Christian, who organized Phase I in 2005. The trail was deemed unsuitable for overland transport & we began planning an airlift of building materials.

Donna Jones (SWCD) is currently inventorying the 6 bridges to be built, which were bought locally, pre-fabricated, and will be ready to assemble on-site. Bridges will be air-lifted to their precise location and assembled using Eco-Challenge participants (pending committee approval) on August 11th.

As to the geo-block, it is being ordered this week. Tuck Bonney is waiting to hear back from his superiors on free shipping from Seattle to Kodiak (as of 16 July this has fallen through). The Summit Lake and Portage Trail geo-block shipment will be shipped together using commercial means and stored at NOAA's yard at Gibson Cove.

Once they're here, Schroeder is organizing an airlift of all geo-block and bridge materials from Kodiak city to the site. He has gotten informal approval from USCG after receiving a verbal statement of no objection from Maritime Helicopters. Final approval is pending a formal letter of no objection from the Alaska Air Carriers Association. We will know by July 23rd.

Geoblock will be installed the weekend of 25-26 August using ITN volunteers. Harrington and Foreman volunteered to form an outreach committee to spread the word about the project to recruit volunteers.

New Business:

Strategic Planning: Fall of 2007 was chosen as a period of several months dedicated to strategic planning for Island Trails Network. The planning period will roughly span from the end of the field work season through the end of 2007. During that time, Foreman and Harrington will survey our membership and the general public about where they would like to see "Trails" go in the Kodiak community, and also about where they would like to see ITN focus its efforts. As pending field work still looms, a formal planning session with outside facilitation is planned for late October. This will remain on the agenda.

Operating Expenses: Schroeder is looking into foundations which would support full or part-time staff for ITN. Some possible sources have already been identified but anyone knowing of more should contact him.

Eco-Challenge: Whipple will attend Eco-Challenge committee meeting July 17th. Her first proposal will be the Summit Lake bridge-building project. Her second proposal will be further upgrades to South End trails on Near Island. Either project would take place August 11th. Donna Jones (SWCD) is currently inventorying the 5 bridges to be built, which were bought locally, pre-fabricated, and are ready to assemble on-site. Bridges will be air-lifted to their precise location and assembled using Eco-Challenge participants (pending committee approval) on August 11th. Michalski raised questions about general liability for these events and Schroeder will research the exact coverage of our general liability policy with Sweeney Insurance (Allstate).

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Paper copy was circulated.

Executive Director's Report: Paper copy was circulated.

Communications: The following were circulated, (1) Letter from ITN to Kodiak Lion's club, (2) letter from ITN to Kodiak Afternoon Rotary, (3) letter from ITN to Alaska Air Carriers Association, (4) letter from Koniag to ITN. Hardcopies will remain in our files.

Audience Comments:

Jill Lipka reminded the board to include the membership in its events and goings-on. She attended solely because of an email reminding her there was a meeting. She, and perhaps many other members, enjoy trail work as a social event, and want to see more opportunities in the future.

Board Member Comments:

Erin Whipple: Said this season has been chaotic but phenomenal.

Pam Foreman Reminded the board that election time is near and seats on the city council, borough assembly and P&Z committee are all available. Please consider running or encouraging other qualified candidates to do so.

Patrick Saltonstall: None.

Erin Harrington: Said she "loves the group" and will be sending emails soon regarding upcoming projects.

Paul Shaw: Wanted to make sure we always reach our target audience for trails projects. Keep making those pitches for upcoming projects. He said it is easy to over-think a project. Sometimes you just have to put it on the calendar, show up with your tools, and the job finds a way of getting done.

Ken Hansen: Said it is exciting to see where this group is headed.

Upcoming Meetings: Wednesday, August 1st, 2007, 12:00-1:30 Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Also in Attendance:

Terry Michalski
Jill Lipka