

SANS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19th, 2021

2:30 PM, Best Western Glengarry, 150 Willow Street, Truro

Present: John Austin, Don Stewart, Lisa Butcher, Reg Crewe, Hayden Sarsfield, Mike Eddy, Paul Daniels

1.0	Welcome and Introductions	
2.0	Agenda and Minutes of Previous Meeting	
2.1	Additions and Approval of the Agenda	Motion by Hayden Sarsfield, seconded by Lisa Butcher
2.2	Approval of minutes of the October 20th, 2020	Motion by Hayden Sarsfield, seconded by Lisa Butcher
3.0	Presentations	None
4.0	Ongoing Business	
4.1	Cell Service Signs (GM)	I have info that 8 clubs want these signs. Still waiting for an OHVIF meeting where this can be discussed for funding under safety.
4.2	Safety Coordinator Position Description (President)	A meeting was held to review the work to date on the Club Safety Coordinator position. Jeremy and Sandy have been addressing this and need input from us before going further. Notes on this will be emailed separately.
4.3	GWRR Railway Crossing (GM)	The crossing is in. Our original application for support was not acceptable. A new application is being submitted for approval by the OHVIF Committee. Waiting on OHVIF meeting for more information.
4.4	Committees and Chairs (President).	An update on the Committee Chairs. Plans for the Committee's work for the coming year. Need to get committees active while following Covid guidelines. Trying to get the membership benefit committee established.
4.5	D&O and AD&D Insurance (GM).	I met with Adam and questioned the timing of when we will have the policies addressed as one. We need to await the full insurance cycle. The company he deals with has been slow to respond to queries on this.
4.6	SANS Awards (President)	The awards were given out in December with personal visits by the Pres and GM. Pics were taken for Sno'Trails.
4.7	Sno' Trail Magazine (Reg)	Update on status and discuss whether a second issue is desired. We will stick with one issue for now
4.8	Meeting with Chuck Porter (President)	On September 14 th a meeting was held to discuss using the permit as the license for a sled. Numerous attempts were made to check the status of this to no avail.
4.9	New Trails and Trail Restructuring Among Clubs (GM)	We have a trail strategy that references when we will add trails. We need to confirm that this is still a part of the strategy. We also need to initiate a review of who is grooming where to make certain the right club is grooming the trails and sharing of groomers could be encouraged such as the Ceilidh Trail Group. The Trail Committee has not addressed these matters. Will attempt to arrange meetings in each zone

		that would include club presidents and grooming coordinators.
4.10	Crowdis Mountain SC (GM)	Required documents have not been submitted yet! Documents are outstanding for an old OHV grant.
4.11	Solara (President).	What are people hearing about the units this year? Much work was done to have the units operational for the season. Everything seems to be running smoothly thus far.
5.0	Reports	Please circulate all reports to the Secretary by email to save time.
5.1	President's Report (President)	
5.2	Office Report (GM)	circulated
5.3	Financial Report - (Treasurer)	Distributed, motion to move some money into a GIC at year end by Lisa Butcher, seconded by Hayden Sarsfield
5.4	Zone Reports (Zone Vice Presidents')	<p>Zone 1</p> <p>Cape Clears reports nothing new except that the Highlander ride is cancelled. Section of 408 and 104 are being plowed. Trail leaving Whycogamaugh, section being plowed as well.</p> <p>Nothing pressing from the Capers. Our Rally is tentatively scheduled for February 20th and our monthly meeting is this Thursday.</p> <p>Here is our new executive.</p> <p>President – Mike Gillis VP – Bruce MacKinnon Treasurer – Blair MacLean</p> <p>The Margaree Highlanders Snowmobile Club continues to work on trail maintenance and has started grooming. We have purchased and installed a number of new signage this year. We need some colder weather to freeze up the water spots in the lowlands. We are meeting next Thursday evening to make a decision on the rally and will advise the outcome.</p> <p>In response to the maps cost issue - are there certain amounts the printer would give reduce pricing on. Normally if you purchase in bulk the higher the quantity the lower the cost. Just wondering what the quantity would need to be to reduce the cost? Also, if the zones are responsible for the cost of printing, then why is SANS determining who has advertising space?</p> <p>Zone 2 report Antigonish Sno-Dogs:</p>

Some cleanup required on trails following recent freezing rain and high winds. Prior to the rain this past weekend there was enough snow down on the trails to get a little sledding in, but definitely not enough to groom. Contacted by a landowner with a final warning after someone on a sled tore up his Blueberry field. Landowner has pictures and will be going to the RCMP and DNR. This situation has the potential for us to lose trail #728/729. January Club meeting was cancelled due to concerns over Covid 19

Pictou County Snowriders:

Trails were prepped and ready prior to the snow. Not enough snow was rec'd to groom and most of the snow has been lost with the rain and warm weather on the weekend. No report on how the trails are following the recent high winds and/or freezing rain. The Club has a new Secretary and SANS director.

Dalhousie Mountain

Lots of trail work and bridging carried out. Rec'd enough snow to get some grooming in. Trails were reported to be in pretty good condition prior to the rains and warm weather on the weekend. Rec'd freezing rain that forced some trail closures due to downed power lines. Lots of helping hands after freezing rain to clean downed trees and cleanup. Dec and January club meeting cancelled due to Covid 19 concerns. Four club rally possible on January 30th. Working on repairs at the clubhouse.

Chedebucto

No report.

Zone 3

AVRR -

Crossburn has a base but needs more snow. We have rebuilt the ramp at the Alton Rd parking lot after a truck drove up it and crashed through. We did not receive permission from DNR to put the warming shelter back at Snowmans corner so we are looking for an alternate location. We resurfaced several bridges in our trail system in the fall.

We will be waiting for public health direction before planning any events requiring people to gather.

Hants SnoDusters

In October & November we had small regular club meetings. December we had exec only.

January our meetings were cancelled.
We are down in membership this season so far.

This fall we brush cut 26km of trail on Wagner Forestry Land in the Mines Road -Walaback Lake area. We communicated with Wagner and went ahead and brushed some more trails/roads to help Mike from Wagner out. These areas were also our trails.

We had an excavator in and fixed 4km of the 101 trail in the Dean Chapter area. It is now better than it ever has been in there. There are 3 spots in Dean Chapter that had bridges. Currently we are working on a project to install 3 Macdonald Bridge Panels in Dean Chapter. We are hoping to have those in place soon.

Our events for this year are in the air right now and pending on covid restrictions.

Notes for Zone 4 Jan 2021

The trail conditions in Zone 4 are quite varied. We did not get a freeze-up but we did get a lot of rain just before a good dump of snow. This has created numerous wet spots and challenges for the Groomer Operators and riders. The next challenge was the Freezing Rain. Ice buildup on signs, trees bent over, ice on the Power Lines, and power outages have been some of the challenges for most clubs in the Zone. Volunteers coming forward to improve the conditions for all riders has been a big help. Some of the 104 was closed because NS Power crews were afraid of Power Line collapses with the buildup of ice.

Marsha Eddy from Fundy Club says:

“Mother Nature did deliver this week, maybe a little too much, 48 hours of freezing rain followed by a few cms. of snow. She certainly gave all something to do!!!!

Planning continues for 4 club Sledhead Rally... Save the Date Jan 30th, 2021”. They suggest Online Registration.

Other posts by Fundy Club members indicate a lot of work putting up signs and clearing the trails after the ice storm.

Craig Cameron from Fundy added “I’d like to add we rerouted our trail 310 to go around the back side of Hart Lake to get off the side of Hart Lake Road. This reroute required 6 bridges and 3 culverts. This reactivated trail was GPS’ed by Stan Slack and he submitted the information. The SANS public trail map has not been updated to show this change, it is still sending people down the old trail which has had signage removed

from it. Also, on mapping, why do we have intersections marked with CR numbers when the CR numbers are not available on the Map Gears mobile map apps? The CR numbers are useless to people in the woods unless they are lucky enough to have an old, paper map." Neil Jennings from Fundy wrote "Our trails were all ready for snow. We are clearing up the trails blocked by an ice storm a week ago. Our Vintage Sled Show and Shine has been canceled due to the pandemic. We have formed a groomer replacement committee." I know that some of our Clubs are altering their plans because of Covid. Meetings and other events have been put on hold. I have noticed the warming huts have not had people congregating inside.

Chignecto Glooscap did not suffer from ice buildup along the trails. However, they have suffered a Transfer Case malfunction on their newer Tucker. Dedicated volunteers are dealing with the breakdown. Their main trails have had minor water runs and some rocks because of low snow conditions. Several sections are as good as it ever gets anywhere. Many riders report overall good conditions, even being able to get to Advocate. Some riders report over 1000 km of riding so far.

Cumberland has completed a number of trail and bridge top repairs. The Club House has seen some needed attention. A local Contractor has donated equipment, materials, and time to numerous projects. Some projects were partially funded with the Small Project Grants. This Club continues to work closely with the COHV ATV Club in Springhill. Frustrations have built up in getting approval to replace a Bridge on Crown Land.

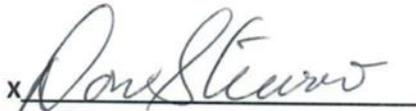
Sutherlands Lake has a new Groomer. They have been working on a new trail section with Cumberland. It also gives another connection to Route Six. This trail is quite popular but, like many others, it needs a freeze-up and lots more snow. Ches from SLTGA wrote: "New Groomer has app 120 hours grooming. We have had an increase of app 25% in memberships and 50% in early bird trail.

Passes. New trails have been added to our system. Would like to see them on the app. Jan 13/14 had a huge ice event. We spent app 200 hours clearing brush. Also had a tractor with a gang saw on front end loader which cut volunteers time and made brush easier to handle as instead of cutting whole tree only cut the part that was hanging across the trail. Had a bill for \$2750. Applied for emergency funding through OHVIF, will see where it goes."

I have seen numerous posts from Greg Nix of Route Six. He is very active in coordinating efforts to improve the trails for all trail users and he regularly posts on the efforts of Route Six,

		<p>Cumberland Trails, Oxford Trails, walking and hiking groups, and many others. Greg reported: "Both groomers were made ready for the season. Oxford groomer required extensive repairs this year. Warming shelters at Wallace, Atkinson Siding and Conns Mills were all prepared with wood and additional COVID signage/ and what you pack in please pack out signage. Panned rail trail Oxford to Tata and into Pugwash. Had to Close trail Wallace to Wentworth due to land owner's pasture not being ready...trail is now open. I suspect this rain will close our trail system. All trails were doable yesterday. Did not pan Wentworth to Wallace or the Jersey due to low snow." One Club President told me about a conversation with an Enforcement Officer with Lands and Forestry. The Officer indicated plans for numerous trail checks this winter. In addition, I see some Clubs are reminding riders to "Stay on the Trail or Stay Home" again this year.</p> <p>Stay Safe.</p> <p>George Pugsley, Zone 4 VP</p>
5.5	Human Resource Committee Report (President)	<p>Nothing to report</p> <p>Motion to accept all reports as presented by Paul Daniels, seconded by John Austin</p>
6.0	New Business	
6.1	Trail Audits (President)	<p>The SANS Safety Coordinator will be available to do some trail audits through the winter using the SANS Sled.</p>
6.2	Covid Planning (President)	<p>Discussion to be led by the President. Should rallies be held at this time? We should advise clubs of the public health directive and the possibility of being fined.</p>
6.3	Trail Guides (GM)	<p>Zone 1 clubs have ordered new trail maps. What is the status of the other 3 Zones? Update on Z-1 order. SANS will pay the \$480 for the formatting of advertising on the back of zone 1 maps.</p>
6.4	Provincial Fund (Reg)	<p>Update on status of fund with financial report. As distributed</p>
6.5	Small Grant Fund (Reg)	<p>Update on outstanding grants. The yearend report is due. Reassurance markers and welcome signs have been ordered with remainder of funds in account.</p>
6.6	AIL Insurance as a Sponsor (GM)	<p>We have had AIL as a sponsor for years. They paid nothing for sponsorship until I negotiated a Bronze sponsorship after commencing in my role. People often find their agents are an issue. We need to discuss the coverage they provide and the benefits to our members. We will continue for the time being.</p>
6.7	Grooming Issues (John)	<p>There are numerous concerns with the current lack of standardization of grooming the trails and when to go out etc. This is a matter for the Executive and possibly the Board to deal with. Facebook posts show groomers out in low snow conditions. Trail committee will need to establish standards. Very difficult to police.</p>

6.8	GPS Trail Data	GPS Trail Data (George) A number of changes to trails were not made as expected and now we are not certain what is available or if new mapping of some trails is required.
6.9	Permit Sales System (Hayden)	How to sell more permits? Discussions will be carried out with the permit review committee and the new membership benefit committee
6.10	Groomer Log Books and GPS Tracking (Hayden)	Clubs will be paid equalization off log books again this year while we test the accuracy of the Solara system.
7.0	Announcements:	Next EC Meetings – February 16 th and March 16 th
8.0	Upcoming Events:	All cancelled at this time. March Ride in CB cancelled for this year.
9.0	Adjournment	Adjourned at 6:00 pm

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 Don Stewart, President

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 Mike Eddy, General Manager