**NHARA Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of Meeting – Conference Call**

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**April 20, 2020**

**Present:** Board of Trustees 14:25

Programs/Mountains 4:29

Guests 3

**BOT:** Dan Marshall; Andrew Gannon; Bev Oliver; Laurie Stevens; Eric Price; Matt Purcell; Jason Guilbert; Greg Gill; Tim Smith; Tory Amorello, Bill McQuade, Mike Cosman, Ted Sutton; Ben Drummond.

**BOT Absent:**  Jeff Brimblecom; Peter Holland; Arnie Huftalen; Ivar Dahl.

**Guests:** Kathy Badger, Jill Firstbrook; Rebecca Bell, Sean Doucette..

**I. Call to Order:** 7:08 p.m.

Welcome to the first NHARA virtual BOT meeting in memory.

**II. Secretary’s Report:** minutes were sent via email prior to this meeting.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the 10/21/19 BOT meeting as printed. D. Marshall/ M. Purcell/Unanimous

**III. Treasurer’s Report**: No Jeff

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

NHARA’s membership numbers are up by 51 members. There were 431 new members this year. On line registration seems to be going well, with roughly 96% of members registering on line. Seeded members are 2 78, U16s are 274, U14s and U12s; U10s -293, Supporters -29; Coaches -292, totaling 1, 9276.

Motion: To accept the Executive Secretary’s report as delivered. D. Marshall/G. Gill/ Unanimous

**V. Committee Reports:**

* A.C.C.: Andrew Gannon

Not much to say except for being encouraged by the New Hampshire response to the restrictions caused by COVID. Hopefully the major changes that are being looked at and decided upon will be based upon what the sport of skiing is about. There is a concern from some of the proposals coming down from the Youth Committees and other branches of the sport. For example, Age Change possibility – in favor of this

Other proposals on the table seem to be based upon selfish needs and not open mindedness relating to the needs of all the states in the Eastern Region.

The program in NH this season went very well until it ended abruptly. Kudos to all the coaches and programs involved with this.

* State Chair: Bev:

Not much to add to what Andrew said. It does seem like we are going around in circles and that people take a second look at them before they try to reinvent the wheel.

Dan reviewed the Eastern Region Spring virtual meetings schedule.

* **Coaches Council: Eric Price**

Not much to report. The last Coaches Council meeting was on October 30 in conjunction with the Ref update at the PSU Ice Arena. It was well attended. It is disturbing that there are still club s and coaches in NH who cannot get the correct information out to their membership. Nothing has been scheduled regarding a Coaches Council meeting this spring because of the uncertainty as to how to do one because of the numbers (50-80 coaches) attending. Possibly could go for a June meeting but am not sure that this would be worthwhile or whether it would be best to wait until fall. Information emanating from the Eastern meetings could be sent out to Clubs and coaches via email in the meantime. Also, there is no assurance that Moot will continue as the U16 chair..

* **Alpine Officials: Mike Cosman**

Not much right now. . . just putting together the material for the meeting next month. It was a pretty good year, a little rough but pretty much all the races were covered.

* **Handbook: Bev; Rebecca:**

The group working on the Handbook this season came up with an on line version. Bev deferred to Rebecca, who dealt with Handbook issues this season. The format was updated. Contact information was updated. Version on line was updated as changes came in throughout the season. The version will be updated again due to a few comments received, but should not need any major changes other than the usual ones.

* **College: Justin Sperry-not on line, no report.**
* **High School: Aaron Loukes-not on line-no report.**
* **Masters: Greg Gill**

1. Masters are giving back: Two Masters have been certified as Referees. They’ve been encouraged to get involved with NHARA races as well as Masters and high school races.

2. Three scholarships were again awarded to deserving applicants, two twelve year old girls from Pats Peak and one 14 year old boy from Burke. This the six year (16 scholarships) that Masters has been awarding scholarships.

* **Children’s Racing: Matt Purcell**

It is a bit crazy right now with what is going on with U14 and under ski racing as well as the possibility of another age change. There is a lot of support behind this, but it is unclear what FIS will do.

1. U14 Working Group

Proposal that has been put forth basically eliminates U14s and Under from regional racing. This raises a question as to what to do with points.

2. Recap

NHARA State Champs went well. There were some course maintenance problems which were resolved thanks to Ted. There still needs to be some work on collaboration between clubs, but all in all The Champs went well.

Regarding the Eastern U14 Finals, NHARA only had two athletes who expressed interest in this event. VARA experienced similar results.

There were a few problems hosting events this season, but most of these were due to Mother Nature. The U12 U14 projects that Fred has been running are producing results. The U12 and U14 level of skiing is better than it was a few years ago.

Recruiting by out of state academies is still an issue, in particular Burke Mt. Academy. This undermines the whole system of ski racing in the U.S.

There is an issue with coaches transmitting incorrect information to parents even after attending a Coaches education project.

3. Contemplating how best to handle the 2020-2021 Calendar. Under consideration is creating a Google Calendar for doing this. Have clubs fill this in and negotiation can take place from there. A children’s meeting is being considered as well, just not sure how or when yet.

4. Eastern region is doing a survey on U14 and under. Request is for info on course setting, length of course, number of turns, number of starts, etc. Laurie said she could provide number of starts info based on head taxes. Kathy Badger offered to help. Matt was tasked with what a reasonable length is for U14 and Under. This data can be found in the Race Packet but would take some time to research. Rebecca offered to help with this as did Kathy Badger.

It was noted that this is not actually Matt’s job.

Sean Doucette arrived.

5. U12 rules: !) Ban on use of fluoro wax may be a non-issue as these may be totally banned. Under consideration is someone who would test for use of fluoros.

Regarding no speed suits in two U12 races - remains as last year with the divisions to monitor..

Note: Concern was expressed over the nature of the seemingly baseless proposals.

6. Question regarding the cancellation of the U14 Champs, Does Sugarbush get to run this event in 2021?. No one knows. No answer so far as to how selections would be made.

7. Again concern was expressed for the nature of the proposals for changes to 14 and under racing.

* **Web Site: not on line -Jack Iacapino**

Dan: Jack continues to do a really good job with the NHARA website.

* **Racer Support: Jason.**

Not much to report. Only one request has been received so far, but it is early. Usually request are received through April.. Some of this is due to the abrupt ending to the ski season this year.

* **Review/Appeal: Ted.**

There were no action items this year. However, there were a lot of phone calls requesting advice requesting whether an appeal should or should not appeal. Most of these were interesting but not appealable.

Technical Advisor:. Thank you to NHARA, and in particular for work at the U14and U12 Champs at Crotched to ensure the course surface would be suitable and safe to race on, and the Kelly Brush Foundation for their support.

Fred Turton covered the SL events at Pats Peak.

Technical Advisor (summary of duties this season): worked with Mike Leblanc, Mark Casale and the mountain operations people at Attitash to develop a good snowmaking plan. The T Advisor program was developed by Mike Cosman and has been a huge success, not only addressing snow surface, netting and protection as well as the opportunity to address the amount of snow made has made a huge difference in keeping our athletes safe.

Mike Cosman: has also started a program to help Ski Clubs educate duties of race workers.

* **Industry Rep: Ben.**

Ben is the new Snow Sports Director at Holderness. Re NHARA BOT: Ivar has taken a job in the industry: perhaps should be Industry Rep on The BOT. Dan said the Ben should take the position of Prep School Rep on the BOT.

Ben summarized what little has gone on in the industry lately. There are no pending issues right now or in the immediate future. The industry has taken a massive hit in terms of the lack of major upgrades at ski areas due to COVID19. What is known is that a lot of people got race skis in early, Rossignol in particular. This fall manufacturers will have a different mindset regarding retail sales.

* **Ski NH Liaison: Tim Smith**

The ski resorts hut down in the middle of March. New Hampshire held in there strong with four resorts open until March 19th or so, after which all dropped out. Some resorts are doing better than others, basically the smaller resorts in the southern region had more of their revenue captured by the time of the shutdown. The larger resorts which rely on the last four weeks for their cash were hurt a bit.

Capital projects throughout the region are pretty much being cut. Even sadder is the number of employees who have been cut. In that regard the PTP loans that have come in have been effective for some mid-size resorts. The larger ski resorts, for example, Vail, haven’t been as fortunate to have this relief. One can read about this in the third quarter reports. The mid-size resorts have been able to be fortunate enough to receive these loans and so are in a much heathier position. This will give some resorts to get a handle on what is going on and whether summer programs will or will not run. Gunstock and Cranmore will be running limited summer programs this year.

Waterville has lost roughly two thirds of their business. Manu of the summer conference have been cancelled already so it will be a rough road ahead.

The Ski New Hampshire is in a healthy position. It is presently trying hard to bring the larger resorts back to NH and is hopeful that this effort will be successful. A primary goal is to get all of these ski areas back by the end of the year. Dues restructuring is being looked at in order to help the ski resorts navigate through these troubling times. Ski NH will also be working with the state on be working on mountain tourism, i.e. a Dream, Plan, Go vision using a lot of imagery. Hopefully all will go well. Hopefully, NH will pull out of this stronger than ever.

* **Sean Doucette – Scoring Review**

It took a number of iterations to get some of the scoring correct which was somewhat of a disappointment. However, a lot of learning took place this year. The major problem was identifying the unique ID for each racer in a series. I t was there all the time, but was .not aware of this at the time. The ID is the USSS number. So when all results from each race in a series come in with the unique ID, the scoring calculator for the U14 Championships is built and it works.

It is important to have a number of people with their eyes on it in order to catch any mistakes that might occur. The plane is that next year there will be no mistakes right out of the gate.

Sean suggest that it might be beneficial next year to work with the RA involved with the race, as different race proms are being used in NH. This will help make producing results run smoother.

Kathy Badger offered to help with this. Sean said he was comfortable with the results Kathy produced (Split Second). The issues occur when there are multiple mountains involved, using particularly VOLA.

* **Other Business:**

1. NHARA Coach Club Fees ?? left over from the year before?.

2. Help offered

Kathy Badger offered to help Rebecca over the summer with the Handbook as well as Matt Purcell if he needs information relating to the NH U14 Course Data survey which he may need to conduct for the ECC.

3. Ted expressed thanks to Crotched Mt. personnel who went out of their way to provide NHARA with all the necessary equipment and staff to produce a snow surface which made the State Championships go well.

**VI. Meeting Dates**

TBD Scored Race Scheduling Meeting –June – Location TBD

June 6, 2020 – Budget Meeting – Location TBD

TBD – CRC Meeting Location TBD

June 8, 2020 Annual Meeting 6:45 pm followed by a BOT meeting at 7:00 p.m. – Location TBD

**VII. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn -the **m**eeting adjourned 8:06 p.m. G. Gill/T. Sutton /Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Oliver

Secretary, NHARA Board of Trustees