



BRTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Present:

- Brian Hanson
- Deena Reisman
- Felicia Hokenstad
- John Elliot
- Gary Carlson
- Ed Solstad
- Tom Suter
- Chris Fothergill
- Pam Tavernier

Not Present:

- Tyler Jones
- Larry Quinn
- Bob Jarvis

ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

President Report

- 180 trail guides
- Midwest Mountaineering is hosting the Outdoor Adventure Expo from November 18 – 20 and we might have a booth.
- Our Annual Meeting is taking place via zoom on Thursday, January 12 with Jen Theissen as our guest speaker
 - Need a couple map sets and a couple trail guides to give out as door prizes
 - Jen will get an REI gift card for \$50
 - Felicia will get details posted on our website and meetup

Treasurer Report

- Treasurer report was reviewed and approved

Mechanized Report

- John's Clearing Report
 - Fire danger low, snow on trail
 - Cleared about 48 trees between N. Lake rd to the falls (fri), high cliffs (sat), and west

- end to magnetic rock.
- We had a 6-panel kiosk on the west end of the trail that has been replaced with a 1-panel billboard style structure and unsure of who changed it out. John will reach out to the Forest Service to see if this was their work and if we can get our kiosk/resources back
- There are no other clearing trips planned for this fall

Wilderness Report

- Bob Harris took a crew out last month and cleared from the camp trail to stairway portage
- The CCMI group won't be going out this fall, but will be available next spring with a new crew leader
- Tom Reichert would like to lead some clearing trips next year and learn more about how to contribute to the BRT
- We should aim to have at least one crosscut certified volunteer on any wilderness trips
- Somebody needs to take the wilderness clearing tools from Tom, Chris might be able to store them at the Rover's house (Ed Solstice?) once the basement is finished
- We discussed our options about repairing the trailer, which is currently being stored at Gary's work lot (not ideal for storage)
- It was suggested to add a note to our conditions page about preparing for wet feet and walking directly through the water vs. stepping off trail in flooded areas to avoid going waist deep in water (Felicia is on it)
- We need to prepare a plan for chainsaw training in the spring, as most of our certifications will expire
- MN Rovers are hosting a Wilderness First Aid course from Nov 12-13, but it's currently full. They are considering adding a second course. Details here:
<https://mnrovers.org/trips/wilderness-first-aid-class-tba-mn/>
- Next year we should aim to collect volunteer hour information by Oct 1 so we are more prepared to submit it to the FS/NPS
 - The NCTA is now collecting advocacy and travel hours separate from work hours - you can report your hours here:
<https://northcountrytrail.org/volunteer/report-volunteer-hours/>

Secretary/Marketing Report

- Some suggestions were made for last month's minutes: add meeting date, add Chris Fothergill's name to attendees, add time for next month's meeting, and who's bringing beer
- Discussion about what mission statement to add to the website:
 - The BRTA mission is to construct and maintain non-motorized trails for public use. To that end, we trail volunteers in layout esthetics and practicality, construction

techniques, maintenance, safety, tool use, ecology, and general woods skills.

- Felicia met with Randy Caldwell from PBS in Bemiji who is creating a documentary about the North Country Trail. They did a short interview about the BRT.
- There was a discussion about selling merchandise on our new website, but Felicia needs
 - Inventory - many of our members are holding on to various inventory, it would be ideal for one person to be in charge of sending out items
 - John has trail guides + can continue to send them out
 - Tom has picture posters
 - Deena has most other inventory
 - Way to collect payment - Felicia will work with Deena to set up a Paypal account
 - This will be a great winter project
- Felicia suggested purchasing a speaker/microphone device for times when we offer both in person and remote options to attend meetings - the board agreed we can spend up to \$40
- Felicia intends to start back up our quarterly newsletters and is looking for information to share, here is the schedule
 - Jan 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1
 - These will be sent via email
- We should start recruiting for additional volunteers, but need some position titles/descriptions before doing so. Send ideas to Felicia, here is a start
 - Marketing - help with social media, newsletters, and website management
 - Outreach - help with outreach events like attending monthly Rovers meetings, Midwest Mountaineering events, etc.
 - Maintenance - it would be nice to see some fresh boots out there helping with trail maintenance, but we need to lean more towards sharing stories that show how fun it can be instead of how hard it is - we can be honest without scaring people away
- Felicia will put together more information about the VIP program through the NCTA/NPS - we need a more seamless way to get our volunteers signed up so they are covered while volunteering on the BRT

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7pm, Gary's House

Annual Meeting Date: Thursday, January 12, 2022 at 7pm, Zoom