

A meeting of the Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club was called to order Jan. 13, 2007, at 2 p.m. at the Lakewood Best Western with 22 in attendance.

Minutes of the Oct. 14, 2006 club meeting were read by club secretary Jody Korch. A motion to approve the minutes, with three corrections, was made by Bill Moore, seconded by Tim Klima and approved unanimously. One change lists Lee Spletter as the man who can no longer plow the Old 32 parking lot. In another change to the minutes, the Pisten Bully — not the Skandic — needed two new batteries. The third change corrects the spelling of bicyclist Bob Spoerri, who approached the club about making the Lakewood trails multi-use for biking, hiking and skiing.

Treasurer's report: Lea Peot reported that she placed \$7,000 into a CD on Jan. 12. Lea reported that the club has a savings account balance of \$7,068 and \$8,532 in its checking account..

The club has received almost \$3,200 in revenue from trail map advertisements.

Membership dues plus additional donations total \$6,134 — more than the \$5,500 budget projection.

Membership report: Sandy Moore reported that 76 families and 46 singles renewed their membership, and that 41 gave a donation in addition to their membership renewal fee, accounting for \$1,940.

Lea reported that fuel has been purchased for the groomers.

McCauslin Brook Country Club will be paid the use of its storage shed.

Equipment and grooming: Lloyd Lundwall reported that the groomer was prepared for the ski season in early- December. A golf course mechanic installed a new starter in the Skandic.

Trails report: Club president Fred Axelrod gave an update on plans to reroute the north end of the trail along County Trunk F. Fred met with Darrell Richards of the U.S. Forest Service. The rerouting area has been flagged, but the proposal must go through a U.S. Forest Service approval process, which includes its possible impact on endangered species. Fred said there is no guarantee the proposal will be approved.

Richards informed Fred that he wants to renegotiate the club's agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. If so, Fred will be seeking club members to serve on a committee.

Business solicitations: Johanna Axelrod reported that four new advertisements have been sold, and that the trail map now has 34 ads, representing revenue of \$3,380. To date, the club has received \$3,195 in revenue from advertisers.

Hole-in-one report: Fred reported that the club now has only one chairperson for one of the three annual hole-in-one events. Club member Tim Klima suggested not ending the hole-in-one events until ascertaining whether anyone else would step forward to chair the event.

Ski social: Shirley Bubolz is looking for volunteers to help provide food for the third annual Ski Social, planned for Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To volunteer services, call Shirley at (715) 276-7737.

Bob Spoerri has approached the ski club about the possibility of forming a bike/ski club. He reported that he met with Lakewood officials about a proposed trailhead on the east side of Highway 32 at its junction with County Trunk F. Grant money is available to use for construction of a multiuse trail which could link up with the Lakewood cross country ski trails. The ski club constitution could be amended to include biking.

Bob said the addition of bike trails would diversify sports opportunities in Lakewood.

Oconto County is finishing the trailhead design and hopes to apply for a grant this spring, Bob said. The grant application is due in April, he added.

Grant monies for a multiuse trail are available through ATV and snowmobile license sales and from gas tax monies, Bob said.

Trailhead plans include a heated building, restrooms, picnic area, trail map, town sign, bike racks, and parking for snowmobile and ATV trailers. A grant application would be strengthened for use on a multiuse trail rather than solely for a biking trail, Bob said.

Formation of a mountain bike club is in the works, and Bob hopes to combine it with the ski club, which has favorable 501C3 tax-exempt status.

Possible benefits to the ski club by amending its charter to include biking are an opportunity to attract new members, expand its trail system, and have access to trailhead facilities.

Bob said a Lakewood Lions Club representative said that organization would consider helping to fund trailhead building maintenance, lights, heat, etc.

Bob says Oconto County would agree to mow trails at least twice a year — spring and fall — on a joint skiing and biking trail system.

Fred said his vision is to have one club, with separate accounts for biking and skiing.

Bikers could join the ski club and develop trails as bike and ski trails.

Ski club member John Lay asked how many new members would be attracted to a bike and ski club and asked what additional expenses would be needed to maintain a much more extensive trail system

Ski club member Heather Gryboski, owner of Lakewood Ski & Sport, says there is a huge interest among those who are looking for bike trails in the Lakewood area.

Sandy is concerned with the need for much more volunteer help for bike/ski trails.

John Lay said the question which needs to be answered is how do skiers benefit from this proposal.

Fred has checked with the club's insurance carrier, and said if the Lakewood ski trails are expanded and include bikers, he was told it wouldn't be a problem. The club's insurance policy doesn't cover personal injury on trails.

Tim Klima is concerned with the club being responsible for more trails. Show him where bikers can raise the funds to mow the trails twice a year, and he'll vote for the joint bike/ski club proposal, he said.

A ski club committee, chaired by Heather, includes Bill Moore, Mike Amann and Dale Keller, will meet at Moore's home on Feb. 3 at 3 p.m. to discuss pros and cons of the joint proposal.

A special meeting of the Lakewood Cross County Ski Club will be held Saturday, Feb. 17 at a site to be determined in order to discuss the committee's report and the possible merger with bikers.

The club's annual meeting will be held March 31.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Lay, seconded by Dave Nagen, and approved unanimously at 3:56 p.m.