

**Town of Barnes Tourism Committee meeting  
Thursday, March 2, 2015 8:30 am.  
Barnes Town Office, Barnes, WI**

Members present: Tom Krob, Barb Romstad, Julie Bohl, PJ Foat, Dana Hodowanic, Mike Tremblay

Also Present: Bruce Hanson, Jess Hirsch and Chuck Olson from White River Sports

**8:37 am Chairperson Julie Bohl called the meeting to order**

**1. Verification of public notice/quorum established**

Julie verified public notice had been posted per state statutes. Julie conducted a roll call of the members present to establish a quorum; quorum established.

**2. Agenda and December minutes approval**

Mike made a motion to approve the agenda as posted and also the minutes from the December 18, 2014 meeting, Barb second; motion carried.

**3. Vatten Paddlar – Canoe and Kayak Races**

Julie introduced Jess and Chuck from White River Sports who were invited to the meeting to explain their event timing services to the group. The two explained how they offer online registration for events, do the onsite timing and posting of race results. The cost of hiring White River Sports to handle the timing, online registration and result postings would be \$825, of which \$375 is non-refundable in the event the race is canceled. Some discussion took place with the committee agreeing that being able to hire a professional firm to handle this segment of race responsibility would be a big help.

- Barb made a motion to retain the services of White River Sports for the Vatten Paddlar on July 11, 2015, PJ second; motion carried.

Bruce and Dana presented a plan for transporting event participants to start lines and returning them from the finish lines. They proposed that the shuttle pickup site be in one place, the Barnes Town Park on Highway N. From that one site participants can park their cars and be shuttled with their canoes and kayaks to either start line. When they conclude the race they can also be shuttled from the finish line back to their vehicles at the Barnes Town Park. Northwest Beverage has indicated it would like to be the presenting sponsor for the event and is proposing a beverage tent be located at the finish line – the Barnes Town Park. The group agreed it would be a good idea to bring participants back to the Town of Barnes at the conclusion of the race and present the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards at that location. It also agreed that the Tourism Committee does not want to be the group running the adult beverage service – several members thought the Lions Club might be interested in that opportunity.

- PJ made a motion to designate the Barnes Town Park as the Vatten Paddlar – Canoe and Kayak Races finish headquarters, Mike second; motion carried.

- Mike made a motion to approve Dana and Bruce’s proposal to provide shuttle service for race participants from the Barnes Town Park to both start lines and back from the finish line to the Barnes Town Park, Barb second; motion carried.
- Barb made a motion to accept Northwest Beverage’s proposal to be the presenting sponsor of the Vatten Paddlar – Canoe and Kayak Races with the adult beverage station at the race finish headquarters (Barnes Town Park) being hosted by a local organization other than the Tourism Committee, Julie second; motion carried.

#### **4. Motion to Suspend Agenda**

PJ made a motion to suspend the agenda and move to item 6, Parks and Recreation info and update, Tom second; motion carried.

#### **5. Parks and Recreation info and update**

Bruce proposed that both the Tourism Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee have a member that serves on both committees. He suggested that Dana Hodowanic, who is an alternate on the Tourism Committee also serve as an alternate on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Susan Pagnucci, a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee would also serve as an alternate on the Tourism Committee.

- Barb made a motion to approve Susan Pagnucci as an alternate on the Tourism Committee, second Mike; motion carried.

Bruce reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee recently passed a motion to prepare an application for a DNR Stewardship Grant for the resurfacing of the town’s tennis courts. There is still some confusion about the recent amendment to the TOB CLU plan qualifying us for DNR Stewardship grants. Tom, Barb and Bruce will follow up.

#### **6. Tomahawk Park**

The smaller signs with directions to the park have been posted – one of the signs has an arrow missing. Barb will follow up with the sign supplier to get the arrow placed on the sign.

Tom reported that in a meeting with Bayfield County personnel he was advised that there are 30,000 acres of Bayfield County land that abut the Tomahawk Town park. All of that land is available for the town to expand its biking, hiking and ski trails.

#### **7. Town of Barnes Website**

A short discussion took place in which all committee members agreed that the town website redesign is a priority.

#### **8. ATV Update**

Tom indicated he and county personnel have been having conversations about possible land purchases for ATV trails. He will have more information at our next meeting.

#### **9. Bylaws**

Mike wondered if we needed to have bylaws for our committee in order to qualify for grants. Bruce indicated that we did not need them.

#### **10. Other Business**

- Julie asked the group if we should be providing updates on the Vatten Paddlar to the Town Board on a monthly basis. The group felt that our activities are documented in our minutes however when possible Barb will attend the Board meetings in case a specific question comes up.
- Bruce indicated he needs to be recertified every year to keep his position – it is most likely that recertification will go through – so we didn't schedule a good by party for him – yet.
- Julie reminded everyone that she agreed to serve as the temporary chair of the Tourism Committee. Time for us to think about electing a permanent chair, she plans to stay in the position through the July of this year.

#### **11. Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting will be Monday, March 30, 2015, 8:30 am at the Barnes town office.

**The March 2, 2015, meeting of the TOB Tourism Committee adjourned at 10:45 am.**