

PaOHV Board Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2008

1-12-08 PaOHV Meeting Minutes

Meeting commenced at 10:30 AM at Central Pennsylvania College in Summerdale, PA.

Denny Mann started the meeting with introductions.

Attendees:

Bob Connor
Fred Baurlie
Jack Clark
Chris
Fred Brown
Dave Marchese
Dick Lepley
Don McClure
Mike Babusci
Denny Mann

Introduction: Denny Mann

Denny opened the meeting by saying that the three words to describe us going forward are unity, protection, and visibility.

Review of Previous Minutes: Dick Lepley

Dick Lepley reviewed the minutes from the last three meetings (April, July, and November). Minutes were approved. Don McClure will talk to Dave Hoglund to get them posted on the web page.

Outgoing Executive Director's Closing Remarks: Mike Babusci

Mike Babusci made a statement regarding the last round of e-mail. He said we need to make updating the web site a priority. There was a discussion of how we were going to do that. Dick Lepley suggested that we talk to Ray Merriman about updating our page to be done as the ATV Traction page is. Dick Lepley stated that our web page should usurp out news letter. He suggested that we try to get a grant, possibly from Polaris, to update our web page. Denny agreed and said that our current web page is rarely updated and has little current information so is of very little value.

Mike explained that he would like to see the two largest initiatives for 2008 be to update the web page so it is our main communication device and to revisit the membership fee structure to make it more attractive for large clubs.

Financial Report: Dave Marchese.

2008 Membership dues: First mailing for clubs and individuals went out yesterday. Corporate solicitation letters will go out next week. We discussed the corporate dues structure. For the time being it was agreed that we would keep it at \$95.

Political Advisory Report: Fred Brown

Fred gave a summary of the current assembly bills that we should consider:

HB 2049—Dally: Introduced Thursday. It deals with riding ATVs and snowmobiles on roads and highways. Details are not known. Fred's feelings are that the bill will not be favorable to OHVs. Finding the details will be Fred's priority on Monday.

Denny Mann brought up the issue of PAOHV promoting a bill to hold parents responsible for their children's actions while on ATVs. Although most agreed that this may be a redundant bill, Don McClure suggested that we may promote it just to show that PaOHV supports responsible riding. Dick Lepley suggested that it may be too volatile. Fred Brown said that he cannot participate in any discussions regarding age restrictions per his agreement with MIC. Dave Marchese suggested that this could be perceived as PaOHV supporting more restrictions and increased fees. Fred Brown suggested that focusing on the landowner liability bill may be more prudent. He suggested that PaOHV develop a press release promoting safety and publicly reiterating our mission statement.

SB1096—Gordner: The bill deals with trespassing by motor vehicles. This is scheduled for discussion at the Senate Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for January 29. Fred suggests that the provision dealing with out-of-state and unregistered vehicles should be removed since it is redundant with current motor vehicle bills. This bill also increases the fines for trespassing. DCNR added language to not require the fines to be used for the restricted receipts account. Senator Gordner agreed that fines should stay with the arresting authority and that enforcement should be done by local forces. Fred will gather more information on this bill before PaOHV takes a stance.

HB 2043—Haluska: This bill has roots in the early 1990s to remove Chapter 77 (the chapter pertaining to ATVs and snowmobiles) from Title 75 (the Motor Vehicle Code) and place it under Title 32 (the Forests and Waters Code). Mike Babusci speculated that our support of this may be perceived as us supporting a move from the transportation code to the "environmental" code. There is also a provision in this bill to increase ATV vehicle weight to 1,000 lbs. Fred suggested that we need to watch this and make a decision based on how it evolves.

SB 497—Robbins: This bill was introduced on 3/29/07. HB 13 is related and has passed in 2007. SB 497 is an opportunity to indirectly amend HB13 which started out as a hunting bill that started when a landowner was hit with a liability claim. HB 497 is a second opportunity to limit landowner liability when land is made available for recreational purposes. Fred has asked 35 house members if they would support an OHV-friendly amendment to HB 13. Only one said no, yet it became law. Fred suggested that everyone needs to support the amendment of HB 497 by writing to their senator. Our message needs to state that HB 497 needs to be amended per the alert.

HB 1908—Robbins: This bill deals with changes to the definitions of land, owner, willful, and malicious. It also has an attorney fee provision. This bill is concurrent with SB497 and is farther reaching. All PaOHV members need to support HB 1908.

Technical Report: Denny Mann

Denny said that he needs volunteers for Motorama on February 16 and 17th. We had a discussion on how to increase membership. Denny suggested that we have a raffle for an item such as a helmet and just collect names and addresses. We also discussed handing out a survey. Denny will come up with a suggested approach.

Legislative Report: Jack Clark

Public Information and Education Report: Bob Abernethy

Bob was unable to attend the meeting

Old Business: Denny Mann

Elections: No positions had more than one candidate running. All were elected.

Dave Marchese: Financial Director

Bob Connor: Technical Director

Long Range Goals: Don McClure

Don explained that we need to establish a long range strategic plan with specific goals and accountability. All agreed that this is vital; however, the lack of volunteers and money remains a serious issue. Don McClure will develop an outline. We discussed setting the Friday evening before the next meeting as the time to establish our strategic plan. The next meeting was scheduled for April 18-19.

Communications/Web Site: Don McClure

Don proposed a revision to our communication system. Our communications consist of meetings, minutes, newsletter, web site, e-mail alerts, and press relations. Don suggested that we establish a Communications Officer to control the central communications hub.

Don suggested that S-Marc be responsible for overall and all communications and specifically the following:

Newsletter: Writing, editing, "pestering", and distribution.

Internal: Scheduling meetings, sending invitations, distributing minutes, and archiving.

Web Page: Updating, changing, keeping it current, and keeping it effective.

Press Relations: Develop a strategy for addressing the press and staying proactive

Mike Babusci made a motion to approve Don's plan. Denny seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Drive: Mike Babusci

Mike suggested the following change to our membership structures:

Individual membership associated with a club: \$10.

Honorary Membership: Free

Club Membership: Full - \$50 + \$5/member, Associate - \$250 + \$10 for every individual member who wants to join.

Mike made a motion that we revisit our fee structure. Denny seconded it. The motion did not pass by a vote of three for and three against.

Jan 26 ATV Traction Meeting: Mike Babusci

Mike gave a side show of his proposed presentation. He will e-mail it to everyone for further comments. The meeting is scheduled for January 26. The general message is that PaOHV has done a lot to benefit the OHV community over the years and that the community needs to join to achieve our common goals.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended at approximately 4:45 PM

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for April 18-19.