

BRPOA Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2007
Mothers Rest. – Liverpool NY

Meeting Called to order at 11:15AM by President Carol Schoch

Officers Present: Gerry Feurch
 Carol Schoch
 Ron Nearing
 Don Phelps

Property owners present signed in on a separate sheet – 54 people present

- Agenda – attached to minutes
- Ron Nearing objected to the short notice given to BRPOA members and the lack of written notice as to the subject, location, and nature of the meeting. Pres. Schoch explained she had done the best she could to give verbal and email notice to as many people as she could.
- Background on request for access to BRS (Beaver River Station)
 - Letters from the Thompson family and Joe Halem (sp?) requesting a feasibility study for a road to access their property in BRS. These letters were sent to the Town of Webb Board of Supervisors last summer. Pres. Schoch read the resolution pending before the Webb Supervisors meeting on March 13th. A discussion of the resolution ensued.
- Pres. Schoch noted a list of interested political contacts she has had discussions with concerning the issue. The underlying point made to each was a road was not feasible or desired by the BRPOA.
 - Letters from Agencies/Politicians in opposition to the resolution were noted and discussed. These letters are available by contacting pres. Schoch. They are from: Sen. Seward, Marc Butler, APA/Lefevbre, Black River Authority, DEC, DOT/Bob Rice, Adirondack Scenic Railroad, Adirondack Council, Residents for Protection of the Adirondacks, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks.
 - Pres. Schoch will forward copies of all letters received to the Town of Webb Supervisors.

➤ A discussion was held regarding why the BRPOA opposes the resolution. These ideas were assembled into talking points for presentation to the Town of Webb meeting of supervisors on March 13, 2007. BRPOA/Carol Schoch is scheduled as an agenda item to be heard on this matter. An outline was presented and discussed for BRPOA to communicate our thoughts to the Town of Webb Supervisors. These talking points are:

1. The BRPOA bylaws and mission statement specifically states opposition to developing road access to BRS
 - per Article II, 1-7
2. Physical Security/Law Enforcement
 - No traffic control devices
 - Pedestrian safety and liability is a concern
 - Unoccupied properties at increased risk of theft, property damage, and vandalism
3. Cost
 - Many unknowns of cost (capital vs. maintenance, type of road, legal fees, etc)
 - Who bears the cost – tax increase (?)
 - Impact on existing roads – do they need to be improved, who pays
 - Need for additional law enforcement – who pays
4. Majority of BRPOA does not support additional access
 - Many purchased property because of remote nature of community
 - Fear of increased taxes
 - Provides access to potentially undesirable people (vandalism)
 - Don't want day trip/joy riders traveling through the town
5. Environmental Impact/Lack of facilities
 - Boat dock not capable of supporting more use. It is funded by private sources, and maintained by permit.
 - Not enough public parking around dock areas, or anywhere in BRS
 - Concern about ATV/Four Wheel Drive vehicles illegally utilizing the beaches, especially during periods of low water.

- There are not substantial additional public facilities for use by a significant number of visitors
- Many environmental experts are already saying a road would be a negative impact (letters from DEC)

6. Historically BRS has been isolated

- Investigate the legality of adding access road
- Isolation has produced property that is affordable for people to own in BRS
- Concern that if additional access is granted it will drive up property values, hence taxes and insurance

** note – we must understand we are desirable tax payers in the eyes of the Town of Webb, we don't consume services and since we don't live there we cannot vote.

- Nadine Schoch presented on legal matters regarding a road
 - Article 14 (Forever Wild) allows for a road to be constructed, but it is a long process and requires amending the state constitution, which is very difficult and politically undesirable
 - Hudson River/Black River Authority would bear the cost of building a road onto the 6 mile road if that became an option, maintenance would then be passed to the Town of Webb
- Pres. Schoch presented the concept of petitioning the Town of Webb for maintaining BRS as forever isolated
 - Private discussion with Supervisor Moore indicated he thought this could be considered by the board as a non-binding resolution – tabled for future discussion by BRPOA
- Pres. Schoch asked everyone in BRPOA to write a letter indicating their opposition to road access to the Town of Webb supervisors, with a copy to her. Pres. Schoch will deliver all letters to the Board during the meeting on March 13th. Her address is at the end of these minutes.
 - Email is acceptable as a method of writing a letter
- Pres. Schoch presented a petition for BRPOA members and any interested parties to sign and distribute to that demonstrates disapproval for the consideration of the resolution for the development of the road to BRS.
 - Ron Nearing offered that many BRPOA members may not be present and would not be able to sign the petition. It was mentioned that anyone could distribute the petition, and should do so and get the original signed petitions back to Pres. Schoch by the March 13th meeting.

- Kathy Partridge presented a conceptual rendering of a web site for the BRPOA. She indicated the only information available on Google about the topic of a road to BRS is the views of those who support the road. Her feeling was BRPOA should have a position and promote the dialogue by presenting an opposing view.
 - She indicated we could have a “members only” part
 - It would be a place to post letters and comments
 - Yahoo site hosting
 - “www.beaverriverPOA.com” was proposed as the domain name
 - Cost is approx. \$135 per year

MOTION by Carol Schoch: Authorize Kathy Partridge to create and set up the BRPOA web site with costs paid by BRPOA funds

SECOND by Bob Cecilia

PASSED: Unanimously

- Pres. Schoch asked everyone at the meeting to update their contact information. A sheet was sent around to allow all to update contact information with name, address, phone, and email. Anyone receiving these minutes who did not update their contact information at this meeting should forward this information to pres. Schoch.
- Well drilling opportunity – contact Derek Crowley at 315-638-6346 if interested in having a well drilled in BRS
- High Rail Permit – contact Carol Schoch if interested in taking the class to operate the high rail. You must be certified in order to operate on the rails legally, and be a member or authorized by the BRPOA.
- Tom Carver of the Adirondack Scenic Railway (ASR) presented on a new access opportunity via the rails
 - ASR is in possession of a “BUD” car, which is designed as a passenger transporter for approx. 60 to 80 people, plus personal gear. It is not suitable to be used for freight transportation. It is in Rome NY and can be fairly quickly refurbished to be available this summer
 - Grant money from the State is available now to rebuild the tracks to bring them to a 25mph rating. The work could be done this summer.
 - Service from Big Moose to BRS could be available by late summer.

- A discounted price for BRS residents would be made available from ASR. Price is yet to be established, but ASR is interested in input from the BRPOA on projected cost and services that should be made available. Trash hauling was discussed as one such issue that needs to be worked out to allow BRS residents to use the service regularly.
- Carver asked for BRPOA support to open the rails to regular service. This would be done along with the use of high rails by the BRPOA. A dispatcher would need to be used to coordinate the service.

MOTION by Bill Brod: BRPOA supports the proposal by Adirondack Scenic Railway to open regular rail service for hire from Big Moose to BRS

SECOND by Tom Calhoun, Donna Brown

PASSED: 53 in favor to 1 opposed

➤ Contact information for President Carol Schoch

1828 Stanley Road

Cazenovia, NY 13035

315-655-2271

315-655-2271 fax

Carol.schoch@juno.com

- Please forward contact information for BRPOA members to her address

➤ Meeting Adjourned at 2:25PM

Minutes submitted by Bill Brod (billbrod@alltel.net)

END