

KACHEMAK NORDIC SKI CLUB LOOKOUT COMMUNITY MEETING

March 30, 2010

5:30pm, Library Conference Room

PRESENT FROM THE BOARD: Richard Burton, Alan Parks, Tara Schmidt, Mike Byerly, Dave Brann, Molly Brann, Kenton Bloom, Kevin Walker

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: 8 local property owners from the Lookout area attended this meeting.

This meeting was called to update board members and the local community about plans for implementation of a state ATI grant to upgrade facilities at the Lookout Mountain ski area and to obtain community input into the planning process for the ski area.

Alan and Kenton led a discussion about the grant and details of the implementation. Kenton is the project manager. He presented a map showing the original development plan for the area. Kenton indicated that the current project is another phase of this original plan. The main emphasis for the project is to provide off road parking for the area. This will involve upgrading Harbinson Road to a class 2 road that would be maintained by the borough from the intersection with Ohlson Mountain Road to the parking area. There is enough money in the grant to improve and gravel the road past the two parking lots to a turnaround. Hopefully there is also enough money to provide a gravel surface for the two parking lots. How much can be done with the available money depends on where we get the gravel. If it can be obtained locally from the Ohlson Mountain gravel pit, we can save as much as \$40000 in transportation costs. This would allow for doing some of the other projects on the list for the area. These include adding a maintenance building, outhouses, electricity, and some minor trail work. Kenton pointed out that most of the projected projects would help lower future maintenance costs for the club.

There was discussion about obtaining the gravel from the Ohlson Mountain pit. Part of the pit is owned by state DOT and part by a private owner. The club is working to get access to the gravel from DOT. Alan is working to get a letter of support from the local schools. He also suggested it would help if the local landowners attending the meeting would get together and draft a letter of support. We will make a formal request to DOT for access and, if that is not successful, pursue it with area legislative representatives. It was also suggested that we contact the private gravel owner to see if they would be willing to provide gravel. One problem with this is that the private pit may contain contaminated material.

Several residents asked for more detail about local parking. The borough would maintain the road but not parking areas. The club would be responsible for plowing of the lots. This winter posed some difficulties with plowing especially during several unusually big storms. Kenton indicated that the club will have better organization and plowing in the future. It might be possible to provide a local parking area at the equipment turnaround. In the winter there would still be a need for parking at the head of Harbinson Road for local residents so they could get out on occasions where the borough had not yet plowed

the road. Kenton suggested that we could create a level bench on one side of the road at the top for local parking. It would not need to be a gravel surface since it would be used mainly in the winter. We would also smooth out the roadside parking area by the Hayfields but not gravel it. It was suggested that it might be good to consider putting snow fencing along parts of the road to prevent it being blown in by wind.

Another issue that was discussed concerned the location and signage for the marathon trail on the Lookout end. The current trail crosses private property in several places and is not well marked. The lack of adequate marking at one point this winter caused it to be routed across private property where it should not have gone. It was suggested that we consider the route and, as much as possible, move it so it crosses borough land and that we should have more flagging and have signs requesting that users stay on the trail. Kenton noted that we have MOAs with the borough with permission for the trail across borough land. Running the trail almost entirely on borough land might be possible but does involve some difficulties of terrain. Alan said the ultimate goal is to define the route and get MOAs from all landowners where it crosses private property.

Kenton suggested that an overall management discussion for the area will be needed in the future. Once initial development is complete, the area will likely see year round use by a variety of groups.

Meeting was adjourned about 7:00 pm.

Richard Burton
Secretary