

Hancock Trails Club Board Meeting
June 25, 2024
Minutes

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Nate Laakonen, Murphy Mallow, and Ian Helman. Absent: Mark Klein and Eric Watkins

Jay convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Mark Roberts keeping the minutes until Keith arrives from a Chassell Lions Club meeting.

Agenda: Mark Roberts added “stump grinder” and Murphy added “hats”

Minutes: Clarification was provided to the Treasurer’s Report that John is working with the city on what he will be authorized to pay and out of what amount. A last name was added where absent. Mark Roberts moved approval of the minutes with the changes, Murphy provided the second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

New board member Ian Helman was introduced. He is a biker and skier who lives in Hancock.

Groomers Report: None were present. The groomer bonuses have been paid.

Treasurer’s Report: There is \$159,883.72 across all accounts. The reconciliation will result in HTC receiving \$923 from Swedetown and \$7,484 from MTU. Murphy reported on the Chain Drive which brought in about \$3,000 in revenue. John reported on the annual meeting voting expenses. There was a Trail 17 expense of \$255 related to the preliminary application meeting with the EGLE. There was a rebate from Jack Fenton on the plowing expenses due to the lack of snow this past winter. John estimates the building fund balance at about \$41,000. The 7-month CD matured and placed in the money market checking. The two Skandic snowmobiles and the mini excavator should be added to the assets. We are still trying to sell the Kodiak at around \$7,000 with the pods. Mark Roberts moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Wayne provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Selection of Officers: No volunteers. John volunteers. John indicated that he would be Treasurer for one last year. John moved to elect the current officers but withdrew the motion until all were present.

Keith arrived and took over the minutes.

Membership Rates: Giving Tuesday is making a big difference, particularly since everyone is down revenue-wise this past year and since the peak in revenue during Covid. Jay indicated that he is comfortable with keeping the rates where they are. Mark Roberts echoed keeping rates where they are to keep interest up in skiing. Jay would like to get the word out to bikers about getting memberships. John noted that we are picking up biker memberships. Nate noted the issue with expiration. Jay noted they expire one year from purchase. Renewal is clearer to skiers because of when their season falls. Jay suggested an article in the newspaper, signs at the trailhead, and an

email on Keweenaw Trails. Jason feels a sign at the trailheads would be a big help for those not going online, including what stores and the website. It was discussed that we could work with Chris Schmidt on this and maybe he could produce something simple. Nate indicated that he would talk with Chris. Ian indicated he could code something on expiration for a reminder email. It was discussed that signs should be located at all trailheads. Mark Roberts moved that we keep rates the same. Murphy provided the second to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trail 17: We met on site with Cassie Abrams from the EGLE for a pre-application meeting to discuss the bridges, boardwalk, and culverts needed on the trail. We received the letter summarizing the meeting today which has been distributed to the board. Keith will start working on the EGLE permits application which will be required for the two bridges and the boardwalk, but not the culverts. The naming of the trail was discussed and that we could do this at the time of dedication. Jay said to start thinking about names. The Wuebbens have offered excavation at \$100/hour which is a discounted rate. John had talked to Nolan Wuebben. Mark Roberts believes they could have the needed work completed in half a day and have them re-set the swamp mats. Nate asked about smoothing the trail either with our tractor or a bulldozer. Jason asked about the possibility of giving naming rights to the trail to the Wuebbens. On the bridge naming, Keith indicated that Finnish names are being considered.

Mapping Proposal: The board discussed a \$3,000 proposal from Jon Schubbe that would result in an accurate map of Maasto Hiihto and Churning Rapids. Such a map would be a helpful step with planning. Ian indicated he will check with his brother on what he can do.

Grants: Kevin Store with the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation contacted John and wanted to see the bridge location. After the meeting, the decision was made not to provide funding. Community Foundation of the U.P. did not accept our \$3,000 request. We have done well with them in the past. A \$17,000 grant will be received from Visit Keweenaw once we construct the bridge over Swedetown Creek.

Chain Drive: Murphy noted that it was a huge success with 132 sign ups which included twenty trail runners who started before 8:00 a.m. Only one person got lost. \$2,600 in donations. Sold hats for donations.

Trail Updates: Dean smoothed Iron Ring to Sky Way. John reported it as an incredible improvement. The kayak launch trail has been created by someone unknown to us per John.

Signs and Maps: Already discussed maps, but trail etiquette has been printed per Nate. John noted that we need something to keep people off Tomasi Road and direct them to Trail 17. Ian reported that his sister-in-law saw someone almost getting hit.

Press Release: Dean did one and it did not get printed by the Gazette. Keith indicated he would reach out to the new reporter at the Gazette to see if he could get any traction.

Improvements: John indicated that work is needed on Sidewiinder for fifty feet up from the National Guard Bridge. There needs to be a bigger ditch. He also noted the need for work at the bottom of Railroad Ravine. Nate indicated that no hazards were reported by volunteers on the

spring clean-up. Nate noted that Brett and Eric Palosaari started an LLC to do trail work. Keith noted that Brett has proposed the possibility of bike trails in Chassell and is developing a proposal for the planning commission there.

Wuebbens: John indicated that he had spoken to Jed about the land exchange under discussion between the city regarding the Gorge and the Terrangio tract. Nolan is willing to provide help with Trail 17.

Budget: Nothing new.

Messner 40: Jay reported that we have closed on it, and we are waiting for the deed to be recorded. When we get the tax bill, we will pay it and then seek exemption from the township.

Vision and Goals: Nothing new.

Maasto Hiihto Hill Climb: This is the trail run put on by the shoe store. It will be this weekend and another at Churning Rapids in October. The Sisu Hill gate will need to be open as well as the Chalet. Murphy indicated that he will open it if he has the key and Chalet lock number which was provided to him.

Stump Grinder: Colin had one he wanted to get rid of for \$1,000. Demonstrations were provided. It works, but it will have to be towed or pushed by hand. Teeth could be sharpened. Mark Roberts indicated that it was not as fast as he thought it would be. It was decided that we would try it out again and a time will be set to do that.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.