

Hancock Trails Club Board Meeting
August 20, 2024
Minutes

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Murphy Mallow, Eric Watkins, Ian Helman, and Keith Meyers Guest: Dean Woodbeck

Jay convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda: No Changes

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Jay noted clarifying language for the Treasurer's report, the Schubbe proposal, and the stump grinder. John noted the proper spelling of Tourangeau as well as clarifying language regarding our normal annual revenue in the discussion about his responsibilities. Wayne moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Mark Roberts supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Groomers Report: None were present, but John reported that the second mowing was completed. Wolf went out to Mud Lake and drive belt came off. John helped him replace it. John noted that the observation tower field had not been cut. Nate asked about how long it takes to do one mowing pass on the trails. John indicated approximately twenty hours. Nate indicated that winter bikers requested mowing from the top of Spring Creek to Grassy Lane. John indicated that he made four or five passes there.

Treasurer's Report: The report John sent out is everything to July 31st for fiscal year comparison. Sales were down for passes. Liquid assets stand at \$158,299 across all accounts. Under expenses, John noted the bill from Copper Island Printing for the Tomasi Road signage. Murphy forwarded the Chain Drive expenses of \$650. Murphy says that should be it. He also noted that the apparel at Cross Country Sports has already been sold. John noted the \$561 paid for the permit application with the EGLE for the bridge project. Mark Klein asked about the excavator service by Wards. This may be on the credit card for around \$1,200. The Building Fund stands at around \$40,000 less the excavator and the bridge expenses. Jason moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Mark Roberts supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dean, who is Chair of the Hancock Recreation Commission, advised the board that rental fees are being proposed for use and rental of the Chalet as part of a new policy; however, there will be no fee for Hancock Trails Club board meetings. There was a subsequent discussion about the possibility of installing timer locks in the Chalet. The potential cost was identified as \$653. The online calendar was discussed and that we should reserve the Chalet for our events as soon as possible.

Trail 17: Keith provided a recap of the work he and Mark Roberts put in to get in a very detailed permit application completed for the two bridges and boardwalk. The application was submitted to the EGLE on July 22nd. After receiving the application, the EGLE followed up at the beginning of August seeking additional information which Keith provided in consultation with Mark. After EGLE processed the application, a twenty-day public comment period started on August 15th. Assuming no issues come up during public comment, we should be good to go forward with the bridge and boardwalk in early September. There was discussion about an estimate from McGann's for materials. Mark Roberts noted that there will be a number of special orders. The importance of volunteer labor on the project was discussed and strongly encouraged. Keith suggested the possibility of reaching out to Corey Soumis with the ISD to see if his students could help.

Ebb & Flow Trail Works: Mark Roberts reported that he and Keith met with Brett and Eric Palosaari from Ebb and Flow Trail Works on August 6th to review locations that they could potentially work on for the Club. They have submitted a proposal. Mark Roberts recommends that the board take them up on Trail 17. There was discussion about developing an S-curve approach to Trail 17 to reduce the steepness of the trail going down to the creek valley. Railroad Ravine and the Sidewinder/Creekside intersection were also strongly recommended by Mark. Jay indicated his interest in seeing the cross slope lessened at site #2 in the proposal. It was noted that site #2 in the proposal is not the solution we are looking for. An onsite meeting was set for 1 p.m. on Saturday to review the proposed work. There was some discussion about the potential re-naming of Trail 17 with Snake Trail suggested as an option. Coming back to the bridge and boardwalk project, Mark will set up work dates and we will need volunteers.

Bike Report: (Nate and Dean) Sue Ellen would like the Great Oaks Trail between the Finni Creek and Lake Annie Trails to be smoother. Nate and Dean walked a potential bypass. Dean will cut and then sign the other route as the technical trail. This would be about 150 feet in length. Mark Klein highlighted a small work bee that cleaned up Lower Pow Pow. Goshawk attacks were discussed, one specifically on Chris Schmidt. There will be sign noting a caution for this next year. Nate noted that he brought the leaf blower in for a tune-up at Abe's.

Trail Updates: Eric indicated that he had seen a downed tree on Vista. John indicated that he would get it. A low hanging tree was noted on Villi Maki. Nate indicated that he would get that one.

Signs and Maps: Jim and Doug's Trail needs a sign. Upper Great Lakes has bought this property as well as thirty acres behind Peterson's. Nate noted that old signposts are out there that need to be removed. John echoed that there are a lot of them out there. A ride around with ATV with a utility trailer would be a way to handle this clean up. A schedule will be discussed at the September meeting. John noted that we have not put the Kodiak back up for sale yet.

Press Release: Keith met with Daily Mining Gazette writer Ben Garbacz on July 23rd and has shared the press release with him. He has other priorities he is working on now, but will see where he can work it in.

Bike Mag: Nate reported that Jesse Wiederhold with Visit Keweenaw is coordinating an offer for the Club to take them out on a ride to see the trails.

Wuebbens: Nothing new on the land exchange. The OHM map has been produced according to Dean.

Misner 40: The deed has been filed and we have a tax bill due in September.

Vision/Goals: Nothing new, but Nate would welcome additions.

Hill Climb at Churning Rapids: We need to have them reach out to Terry and Sue Ellen.

Tomasi Road Signs: Jay thanked Nate for the great job on these. Jay noted the need for stop signs at Hodges' crossing. Nate will work on this.

Canopy: Nate asked the board if it would be a good investment for the Club to acquire a 10-foot by 10-foot canopy and table cover with logos. Jay asked if someone could investigate this and discuss it at our next meeting. Murphy and Dean will look at this.

Business Sponsors: There was discussion about whether the Club should have two sets (summer and winter). Nate noted the levels utilized by the Copper Harbor Trails Club. Jay noted that we currently have two levels. We discussed printing both sets of maps. Jay indicated that we solicit in the fall for winter and summer maps with a higher level of sponsorship required to be on the map. Nate will produce a proposal and map out targets.

Summer Worker Pay: Still nothing set but looking at working with the city on a concept that would involve a pot of credit and then reimbursement. Dean noted two MTU students at Swedetown. They allocated \$8,000 and it has relieved pressure on volunteers who were employed by the Township.

Hancock Township: The township board decided it was too big a deal to split, so they will provide all of the parcel including the waterfront. Mark Roberts moved authorizing Jay and John to carry out the transaction. Murphy supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Knowledge Management Options: Eric presented some options for us to consider for cloud storage, including Google Drive, OneDrive, DropBox, and Box. He also shared a file structure that could capture things like our board meetings, vision/goals, board elections, communications, board roles/responsibilities, graphics (signage and maps, logos, etc.), events, fiscal information, projects, etc. The services can be free up to reasonable costs.

Jay indicated that we are still looking for a groomer. Keith noted Steve Parker in Chassell. It was also noted that Nathan Fettig is also available and has maintenance background.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m. The next meeting is September 17th at 7:00 p.m.