

Hancock Trails Club Board Meeting
July 16, 2024
Minutes

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

Jay convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda: No changes

Minutes: The June board minutes were reviewed. Jay noted a change needed regarding hats being “for” donations and that under grants we will be receiving a \$17,000 grant from Visit Keweenaw. John moved that the June minutes be approved. Mark Roberts supported the motion with a second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: There is currently \$159,018.31 across all accounts with not much activity over the last month. John is still waiting on Chain Drive expenses. The Building Fund stands at \$40,256 with permits and excavating expenses coming up. Nate asked about the donation to Swedetown for the Chain Drive. This is yet to be determined. Figures are needed regarding the market value for the Skandics. Mark Roberts moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. Jason supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers: Mark Roberts expressed willingness to continue as vice-president. John indicated that he would be stepping down as Treasurer after this year. Jay is willing to continue as president. Keith is willing to continue as Secretary. There was discussion about the need for succession planning for officers. Eric asked for a briefing from the officers regarding their roles and responsibilities. Listing out processes associated with each role and giving talks on knowledge transfer were recommended by Eric. Keith moved approving the existing slate of officers (Jay as president, Mark Roberts as vice-president, John as treasurer, and Keith as Secretary) for the next year. John supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trail 17: Keith discussed the EGLE permit application process underway for the two bridges and the boardwalk. He is applying with the permission of and on behalf of the Wuebbens. He and Mark Roberts are working on the collecting the required measurements to be included in the application. There was discussion about the need to moderate the steep grade leading down to the boardwalk and bridge with S-curves. Mark Roberts suggested naming this portion of Trail 17 Snake Hill.

Schubbe Proposal: Nate thanked him for meeting with us on this mapping proposal and that we will get back with him.

Bikers Report: John reported that mowing has been completed once and they are getting ready to do it again. Mark Klein reported that they will be starting trail work next week and that the

Sky Trail is growing in quite a bit. Jay suggested the use of boomerang blades. Mark Klein brought up the possibility of paid summer help for trail maintenance on single-track trails. 1099 limits for contract work were discussed.

Trail Updates: John indicated that he will be scoping out a Basswood Highlands tree tomorrow. John noted that Bruce Hannula has been doing work on this part of the trail.

Signs and Maps: Ian got some crude GIS maps...State of Michigan database pulled from Trail Forks data and imported to GIS software. Mark Roberts indicated that he believes it is worth continuing to pursue our own map. The challenge with property lines was noted. Dean put out new signs/replacements at High Point.

Press Release: Keith has reached out to the Gazette's new outdoor writer Ben Garbacz and is waiting to hear back from him.

Wuebbens: John led a tour of the Terrangio track that included John Erickson, the Mayor, and Mary Babcock. There was a meeting last Friday with the Wuebbens, and it sounds like there is a meeting of the minds on the land exchange. OHM is working on a new map that will be the basis for the transaction. The greatest interest appears to be the area behind the DPW. Eric asked if public comment would be necessary on the exchange. John thinks yes. Mary Babcock believes this will be resolved by the end of the year. Mary will get with John once OHM revises the map.

Budget: Nothing

Meisner 40: We received the tax bill. It is under \$100. We will pay it and then appeal for an exemption from Hancock Township. Mark Roberts asked about the parcel Hancock Township was going to give us. Jay will follow up on that.

Vision and Goals: Nothing

Maasto Hiihto Hill Climb: No Report

Tomasi Road Signs: Nate went to Copper Island Printing. There will be no skiing/grooming on Tomasi Road this coming winter. Details were discussed regarding sign placement.

Stump Grinder: seven-eighths" ball hitch (Superior Rental) – we would not have to store or maintain - \$175/day. Jay is leaning toward rental. Mark Roberts agrees. John indicated that Colin's is slow. We will let Colin know we are not going to buy it.

Officer Roles and Responsibilities: Coming back to Eric's earlier suggestion, the officers provided the following briefings: Mark Roberts indicated that he fills in when the president is out and performs other duties as assigned. He also tracks things to maintain an agenda (Oct to December). Jay indicated that the president creates the agenda. He also sends out spring and fall letters to the landowners. He has the authority to sign for land purchases and then went over the process in detail. Jay noted the spokesperson role but noted that John has been handling this. Jay also noted the maintenance of the relationship with the city. John noted as treasurer he does the

bookkeeping and maintenance of the general ledger. He has been utilizing Quicken but would like to switch to Quick Books. He does the financial reports. This is mostly formatting and takes around two hours per month. He noted that there are canned reports, but others need to be worked on. John noted the importance of getting data entered on a timely basis. He also maintains the membership data, but this is something that could be delegated. He noted check writing responsibility as well. Financial/accounting background would be good for someone coming into the position. \$50,000 is a normal year. He noted that completion of the 990 is a pain. Keith noted the minute taking and annual meeting responsibilities of the secretary. Wayne brought up the importance of volunteer coordination for things like the Barnelopet and cross-country skiing at Barkell Elementary as well as the need to seek about \$500 in for the Barnelopet.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 20th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.