

**Hancock Trails Club
Board Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2024**

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

Mark Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: No Changes

Public Comment: None

Groomers' Report: Need to get groomers report from John Pekkala or have Wolf do it.

Treasurer's Report: \$112,823 in all accounts. The bridge project is wrapped up except for the signage. John discussed missing items from assets, including one shed and two snowmobiles.

No record of who moved and supported the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report.

Minutes: Mark Roberts and John both emailed changes to the minutes to Keith. Jason moved to approve the minutes with those changes. Ian supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Milwaukee Skiers: They will be here on January 4th. Forty to fifty are expected, but only a portion will be coming here. We will plan on twenty to twenty-five to be fed. John indicated that Jeanne is willing to help and that he will lead skiers. We need five soups plus desserts. We will charge \$15 for all you can eat. Food will need to be delivered by 10 to 11 a.m. Ian offered to make bread. Murphy indicated he could make soup. Blair Orr has provided soup in the past and will be contacted. Wayne indicated that Eileen is willing to help. Nate indicated that he would bring a dessert. Mark Klein is willing to make soup. Eric will make chili. John indicated he would bring bread.

Luminary Ski: John has posters for placement in the surrounding communities. Mark Roberts indicated that he has two sleds and the club has two. Keith, Julie, Jennifer, and Carolyn will meet at 3 p.m. on the 26th to bag the lights and place them on the trail. Jason and Murphy expressed a willingness to help with taking them down. John will get pizza for the volunteers who set it up. We will have two fire pits and will need sand for ice control. Murphy indicated he would put a poster at the MTU Trails. John suggested to all the board members that they talk up the event. Mark Roberts indicated there is a need to clean up the website dates.

Snowbike Groomer and Summer Trail Worker – Kyle: Mark Klein indicated that Kyle Hiltunen has turned in his paperwork. John indicated that the city said we could pay whatever we want. At \$18/ hour this would require us to reimburse the city at \$21/hour. It was decided to investigate this further outside of the meeting.

Keith needed to step out of the meeting to take a call, so no notes are available on the Skandic 600 replacement.

Business Sponsors: So far, the following Board members have secured donations: Murphy 2, Mark K. 2 and 2 for the Chain Drive, Nate 1 and John is working on his. We need to put the list of sponsors and who contacts them on the shared drive. John will be printing the map on Friday with existing sponsors, but inform him of any new ones before Friday.

Murphy's Merchandise: There was a discussion of merchandise payments that Murphy is looking at. Hats have been sold to Cross Country Sports for \$20 a piece and they are selling them for \$25.

Giving Tuesday: Discussed during the Treasurer's Report.

Barnelopet: Wayne indicated that he had ordered the medals, and they should be in soon. John talked to Ski Tigers and asked if they would like to have someone shadow Wayne and, if so, to let us know. John had talked to someone from GS Engineering. Wayne indicated that we need to recruit volunteers and rent the building for February 9th. We will pull the details together at our January meeting.

Barkell Elementary: Wayne reported that skiing will take place on Wednesday mornings and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. There will be six classes on Wednesday and four on Thursday for a total of ten classes. A few volunteers are needed. The trail will need to be groomed on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The trail will need to be adjusted. Wayne asked who will be the groomer? It was suggested that he talk with John Pekkala. Classes will start the first full week of January on the 8th and 9th. For four weeks at least four volunteers will be needed. Jay, John, and Wayne will be volunteering. Anyone else? Getting skis on promptly is a challenge with a thirty-minute time frame.

Etiquette Signs: Nate showed examples that would be priced at \$13/sign. He asked Christ to put something together. Jason noted that red no walking signs are a good choice. Mark Roberts suggested the possibility of a separate sign about staying off the tracks. John noted that walkers are the biggest problem. Nate indicated that he would put up signs at High Point and Brooks Road, four each on his end. Jason moved that the board approve acquiring the signs at up to \$20 each. John supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Donations: Hancock Township and Goodwin: Hancock Township has given \$5,000 from ARPA. Nate followed up with an email. Also, Charles Goodwin, an oncologist at Portage, has given a donation. John will follow up.

Officer Succession: Nate and Murphy will reach out to Brett Hauswirth about the Treasurer's role. It was also noted that Jay is also looking to step down, but to remain on the board.

Knowledge Management: Eric noted that the Vision/Goals have been uploaded. We need to incorporate events. We could do live editing of minutes and set up a folder for events like the luminary ski and summarize roles and responsibilities. By getting this into our processes, this

will be a big help in the long term. Eric indicated that we should copy the Hancock Trails Club in our correspondence or email to Eric. Mark Roberts indicated that he would get Eric the By Laws. Murphy also noted that he did a checklist for the Glide-N-Gorge.

Mapping Project: Ian indicated that he has updated the new landowners. Let him know if you want anything added to the map. Nated pointed out the Meisner 40 is now part of the Club. Kyle is a surveyor and may be helpful to get all our deeds and legal descriptions on the drive.

Vision and Goals: Are now on the drive.

Wuebben Contract Work: John submitted invoices to Visit Keweenaw and provided a summary of the expenses. It was decided that the bridge sign will be attached to a 6 x 6 to be bolted to the cribbing. Keith will order the two signs. Nolan Wuebben was excited to see the video of skiing in on the new Trail 17. Nate asked about the culvert work. John indicated that he had talked with Nolan about this. Mud was put over culverts and that will not work in the long term. There is also work needed below Dam Hill.

FEMA: The first State Police report never made it to FEMA. Another State Police Officer came out and signed off. This will open the door to doing more work in the spring.

Trail 17: The project is finished. The materials cost was \$34,000 and the estimate was \$36,500. The laminated beams were costly, but we had savings elsewhere. The excavation uphill is not included. This was another \$10,000 to \$11,000 but came out well. It started snowing the day we finished. The Wuebbens are plowing Tomasi Road. A possible trail modification would be to cross Tomasi Road perpendicularly. We should also look at widening the Pedestrian Bridge for groomers. John indicated that he had invited the Wuebbens to our completion party, but none attended.

Hay Bale Fence: This has been installed by Mark Roberts and John.

Long Bridge: Ian still needs to get out there but sent Sue Ellen a tentative plan. The bridge was built by her older brother Phil who died of ALS. She is happy to see it is being taken care of.

Press Coverage: Keith reported that Jesse Wiederhold from Visit Keweenaw had asked for permission to use his photos from the bridge and boardwalk project.

Naming of Trail 17: Keith asked if we have talked to the Wuebbens. City Limits and Creekside Connector are the two names we have discussed. John will share these with the Wuebbens.

Reserving the Chalet: John will follow up on this.

Lake Annie Logging: Mark Klein indicated there has been no impact on the trail.

Hancock Township Land: This is still on their radar.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:20 p.m.