

Hancock Trails Club Board Meeting
Minutes
October 15, 2024

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

Mark Roberts convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda: No changes

Minutes: It was clarified that Murphy Mallow approved Wuebben Construction's proposal on October 8th which resulted in unanimous approval. Keith moved that the September minutes be approved with that change. John supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that the club has \$140,631.24 in liquid assets. The maturing CD has been rolled over to a five-month term at 4.86 APR with Huntington Bank. This will mature on March 25, 2025. On expenses, nothing to report except that Trail 17 expenses will start coming in as materials are ordered. Mark Roberts commented that there is already over \$11,000 in lumber and the decking remains to come in. John reported that the Kodiak is ready to go. This work totaled \$1,007 with \$800 of that in parts. John projected the Building Fund at \$64,000 noting subtractions for the bridge project and for the Wuebbens Creekside and Trail 17 work. John also noted that the club is in for the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation's Giving Tuesday and that fifty organizations are participating this year. Wayne moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Jason supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Trail 17: Mark Roberts noted that the consent agreement was approved for Wuebben Construction. He does not know about their planned start date. Mark also reported that the cribbing is completed for the bridge, and it is ready for rock which we will be receiving tomorrow morning. Mark indicated that he had smoothed the site with the tractor in preparation for the rock delivery. The swamp pans are in. The boardwalk will take a lot of labor and a lot of screws. The Visit Keweenaw grant could be applied to McGann's bill which is estimated at \$35,000 for materials. The four culverts were delivered today. We will look at making an amendment if necessary for the upper part of the trail. Nate asked about smoothing the upper part of the trail with a skid-steer as he feels it is a bumpy trail surface right off Tomasi Road. Ian echoed this concern.

Gorge/Creekside Fixes: John checked with John Pekkala. There is language in the law that we do not need permits on small culverts if they are completed in one day. There is no word about FEMA according to John.

Mowing/Brushing: John reported that he has mowed upper Creekside, St. Urho, and Long Bridge. The ATV died going out to Christiansen Road. Wolf towed him in. Lower Diagonal has not been completed. It was wet again today but should be able to mow after a couple of dry days. Mowing to be completed includes the Meadow, Mud Lake, Sunset, and North Ruby Marsh. It will take three long days to do these. Mark Klein asked about fixing the mud holes that have been creating issues. John noted that Mary is concerned about doing any work in the Railroad Ravine and Sidewinder areas until there is final approval from FEMA. The funding is obligated, and we do not know what the concern is.

Long Bridge: Ian reported that the joists are not rotted. The bridge is in need of screws due to loose boards. There will be a need for new deck boards and screws, but it is not a this year project. Mark Roberts commented that we could do it next spring or summer. Nate commented about doing quick fixes on about ten boards. Ian will follow up with Sue Ellen. Mark Roberts commented about double checking the joists.

Make a Difference Day: Will be on October 26th. The plan is to haul materials for Trail 17. Murphy suggested involving the cycling club at MTU at a separate time to move lumber and swamp pans to stage for the boardwalk. Work will start at 9:00 a.m. on the 26th.

Business Sponsors: Nate's concept of a calendar year sponsorship was discussed, but it was decided it will be too tight to do something different this coming year. Mark Roberts noted that Nate's approach is a lot more organized and detailed than what we have done in the past. Nate feels this will be an opportunity for larger donations. It was decided that we will have a committee iron out the details and come back to the board with a 2026 implementation. John shared the contact information in the Treasurer's report. Contribution levels will be \$150 and \$300. Nate, Murphy, and Ian will be on the committee. John will share his institutional knowledge. The goal was to work this out by spring and have a rollout plan by the summer. In the meantime, sponsors will need to be contacted and on board by December 1st.

Domain Renewal: We have renewed Hancock Trails and KeweenawNordic.org. It was noted that Jay had recommended holding the former site one more year with a redirect. After some discussion, Ian moved that we should let the former site go. Murphy supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Groomers: John indicated that John Pekkala and Wolf agreed to do it again. Tyler will work for DPW but is limited to 29 hours per week. There is resistance from the city about hiring more people.

Summer Help/Snowbike Groomer: Nate discussed potential interest by Kyle Hillmer who has previously worked for the Copper Harbor Trails Club. We will approach the city first about the possibility of putting him on the payroll. If not, we will develop a contract. Nate was directed to have Kyle make a proposal. John will talk with the insurance agent and then with Mary.

Brochure/Map: We need business sponsor information. There was discussion about having less winter maps and more summer maps (fifty to start per Murphy) and featuring maps with hats at stores. John noted that someone got lost with the new map.

Remove Old Signs: Nate took down a couple. John will try to make a run or two. Mark Roberts indicated that we should keep the relevant signs nailed to trees.

HTC Merchandise: Murphy indicated that he is discussing winter hats and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Press Coverage: Keith indicated that he has been in contact with Ben Garbacz with the Daily Mining Gazette and will be reaching out to Jesse Wiederhold with Visit Keweenaw.

Giving Tuesday: We want to be talking this up with our friends.

Officer Succession Plan: This is important given John's plan to step down in 2025. We need to have another person who understands his role and has an interest in bookkeeping. John proposed putting together a nominating committee. Keith and Ian volunteered to do this along with John.

Vision/Goals: Nate updated on progress. He sent it out this morning and has developed a list of projects for potential grant funding. Mark Roberts mentioned signage for keeping off trails (snowmobiles/foot traffic). Keith discussed conversation with Jeff Kakuk from the DNR about the Quincy Trail who indicated there was no easy solution as they cannot designate it as non-motorized, but then hedged by indicating that he could meet with us to brainstorm this next month. Wayne asked about including snowshoeing. Ian brought up Railroad Ravine. Keith brought up the concept of skills trails for kids like they are looking at in Chassell. On Railroad Ravine, Mark Roberts suggested a boardwalk at the bottom to get to the bridge. Doing a quarterly review for progress was discussed and the possibility of adding it to the website.

Logging by Lake Annie Road: John note that they are within one-hundred yards of the trail. It looks like selective logging. Mark Roberts indicated that he went there today to check it out and noted that it definitely looked like selective logging at Lake Annie Properties LLC.

Letters to Landowners: Went out on October 14th.

Other Business: John will follow up with Jay on the Hancock Township property. Keith briefed the board on the Chassell Trails changes going on with Jim Tervo stepping down from taking care of the Trails. The upper loop will be coming off the trail system. DP Construction is modifying the old ice rink warming building into a groomers garage for the equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.