

**Hancock Trails Club
Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025**

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

Jay convened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Agenda: No changes.

Minutes: John moved that the minutes be approved as written. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers Report: Jay talked to John Pekkala about reporting on Keweenaw Trails. John indicated that he posts after he is finished rolling and again once tracking is completed. One day recently we had a breakdown and in for service that kept grooming from taking place. This impacted Barkell. Mark Klein reported that there have been 43 hours of bike trail grooming back to January 17th and that Kyle is doing a great job.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that we are 50% ahead on pass sales this year. Our accounts total \$150,028.63. We have \$63,000 in certificates of deposit maturing soon. A discussion took place about moving more money into the CD, up to \$100,000. Giving Tuesday will total over \$19,000 with individual donations close to last year's total, but the match from Copper Shores was down given the additional competition for match with more participating non-profits this year. The match we received was down by around \$3,000. The Building Fund is currently just under \$57,000. After some additional discussion on the CD, Mark Roberts moved that we put \$100,000 into a five-month CD when the current one comes due. Nate supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Thank You Notes to Giving Tuesday Donors: We will meet at the Chalet next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. John asked about getting trail cards printed up. Mark Roberts felt this was a good idea. Jay indicated that he may have some. John suggested working with Chris Schmidt at Studio 13. Jay empowered John to work something out. Nate will provide a biking photo to John.

Retro Ski: Will be this Sunday.

Glide-N-Gorge: Discussed going to a reduced event since no one was found to organize this year's event. Mark Klein noted a conflict with ski racing that day at MTU as they had put out a call for volunteers. After some discussion about how we might try to set up the event, discussion turned to either cancelling the event for this year or postponing it later into March.

Heikinpaiva: We participated in this year's parade.

Barkell Elementary: Success has been limited, but all classes got out at least once. We can go until the middle of March. Jay has reached out to the place that carries bindings and is waiting on word back from them. About potential funding from the school foundation, they take applications quarterly and the application would have to come from a staff member. Nate's wife is a teacher and could apply.

Barnelopot: Wayne reported that this year's event was successful. The weather held up. There were seventy-two registered skiers with a total of eighty kids who skied. All the hot chocolate and cookies were consumed. The participant breakdown was as follows: Hancock/Houghton: about twenty each; Chassell/Jeffers: about ten each. The total cost of the event was \$450 with medals costing \$35 more than last year. The Ski Tigers have a lot to learn. John talked with them about a de-briefing. We had two ski patrol people at the event that Nancy Imm. The liability coverage was in place for the event. Jay received an email from Rob Handler and Erin Sythe thanking us and expressing their commitment for putting it on. We had the usual volunteers helping and there was enough coverage.

Trail 17: The new name is Creekside Connector. We will need signage. Nate asked about new maps for that area. Nate will get with Dean Woodbeck and have him get with Chris Schmidt. Keith briefed the board on a video shoot that he and his wife Julie recently participated in for Visit Keweenaw that focused on this part of the trails.

Bike Report: Murphy indicated that he went to the Copper Harbor Trails Club meeting where Ride the Keweenaw was discussed. Murphy proposed we host a group ride (Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend) and he would be willing to spearhead this. It would take six to eight volunteers. There is a family enduro ride at MTU that morning. John reported more traffic off of High Point Road. Nate validated John's observation.

Trail Update: Nothing

Trails and Maps: There was a discussion about walkers. It was noted that there have been less, possibly due to the new signage or possibly due to the cold weather. Mark Roberts noted seeing a lot of walkers from the Chalet and some at Tomasi.

Wuebbens: Nothing

Budget: Nothing

Etiquette Signs: Jay asked, "do we want anything. John and Nate feel the current signs are adequate.

Long Bridge: Eric reported there was nothing new.

Canopy: Level UP will supply for biking. We will see it for Ride the Keweenaw. Forty more hats for free. Cross Country Sports has ten and they need to be billed for these. John reported that he had received Cross Country Sports sponsorship check today.

Sign Posts: Mark Klein will try to address this as snow starts melting.

Business Sponsors: The committee has produced tier levels. Sponsorships will cover both biking and skiing. Nate indicated that we would start pursuing annual sponsorships in the July/August time frame. Eric stressed the importance of carrying out events.

Newsletter: The \$300 template through Haley Goodreau was discussed. She would train us to carry it out. Keith suggested that we do them quarterly. Nate noted that they could be season based. Mark Roberts moved that we go forward with working with Haley at the \$300 level. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sponsorship Tiers: Nate indicated this is the committee's recommendation. The board expressed support for the direction the committee is taking.

Contract Work – Kyle Hiltunen: Jay brought up workers compensation. John indicated that Kyle should demonstrate liability coverage with a certificate. No one knew if Kyle had this coverage. Nate shared the draft agreement with Kyle. Jay asked Nate to talk with Kyle about liability and workers compensation. Jay moved that we go forward with the contract with Kyle for summer work authorizing John to discuss liability and workers' compensation. Nate supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

City Insurances: Registration of snowmobiles for \$100/each. Mark Klein noted that we had already voted to buy the insurance.

Knowledge Management: Eric reported that the minutes are now there. There was a discussion about making links to the agenda.

Merchandise: Already discussed, but John asked for an email from Murphy reminding him of what to invoice for.

Chalet: It was reserved for tonight. Jason reminded us to reserve it for next Tuesday. We will reserve it for the third Tuesday for the rest of the year. The annual meeting date at the Orpheum is May 20th. The Club will buy pizza. Beer will be available.

Succession: John has not heard back from Brett.

Keweenaw Land Trust Ski: Will be this Sunday meeting at 2 p.m. at Tomasi.

Keweenaw Community Foundation grants: The spring release does not appear to affect us. Jay will attend their workshop.

Visit Keweenaw Destination Development Grant: We will pursue this for the Grillhouse project. \$25,000 is the maximum ask. This has been discussed with Dean and Mary Babcock and John Erickson. We would be looking at signage and machine time. Mark Klein noted that the mini excavator could be counted as in-kind. We will need to get a proposal to Mary ahead of the

next Recreation Committee meeting. It would go to the City Council on March 18th. March 31st is the grant proposal deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.