

**DHancock Trails Club
Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025**

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: Brett Hauswirth

Jay called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda: No changes.

Minutes: Mark Roberts moved that December minutes be approved. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers' Report: Nate passed out the Groomers Report. This is available through an online link to the grooming history on Keweenaw Trails. Mark Klein has been doing good write-ups on the bike trails. There was a discussion about the ski trail grooming results and the need for more detail. Jay will talk to John Pekkala about this.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that there is \$128,672.25 across all accounts and shared information regarding recent expenses, noting that there were no surprises. Sponsorships have been coming in, noting that OHM's check came in today. Directors/Officers insurance has been updated. No additional cost with the addition of the High Point shed. Forty "no walking" signs were printed at a cost of \$420. The grant reimbursement for \$17,000 has come in from Visit Keweenaw. No Giving Tuesday funds have come in yet. John is hoping for around \$24,000 as he estimated \$23,000. Jay noted on the income/expense comparison that grants appear to be with general fundraising and that grants should be separate from donations. Jay also asked about depreciation under net worth. John noted that he takes it off in the spring. There was also discussion about making sure the 990 syncs with the budget. There was discussion about the 2017 Skandic not being in the assets. Jay has it in the budget, but it is not in John's report. Mark Klein noted the sale of the snowmobile for \$6,200. Mark Roberts moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Murphy supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Luminary Ski: John reported it was a great night. Mark Roberts noted there was a lot of help. Nate asked about the number of cookies, and it was agreed that the amount was good.

Milwaukee Skiers: John remarked that there were good conditions, but it was windy. It was the first time they had been in the gorge since before the Father's Day Flood in 2018. \$540 was made on the event between the trail fees and the food. Thanks to Jeanne and Eileen for their help.

Glide-N-Gorge: Jay asked who will lead it this year? It does not have to be a board member. Wayne asked how much the event brings in and Jay noted it usually brings in about \$1,500. Jay sees it more as a social event. There was discussion about the opportunity to get the soup location back between the Middle and Sisu Bridges. Mark Roberts suggested having the hors d'oeuvres at the Trail 17 Bridge. We will need someone to head this up by February.

Heikinpaiva Parade: Will be this Saturday. John Diebel will operate the Wolverine if John Pekkala is not available. Jay, John, Wayne, Mark Roberts, and Keith all indicated that they would participate. The parade is at 11. John indicated that we would have the banners by then. John has a long ski for the banner.

Barkell: Wayne indicated that it started two weeks ago, but students have not been out yet due to the weather conditions. Wayne noted that they could use one more volunteer for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Jay indicated that he would discuss this with Wayne. Straps on bindings are worn out. Replacement bindings would cost \$23/each and we should buy more as spares are needed. Keith moved approving up to \$230 for new bindings. Mark Klein supported the motion with a second. During discussion, the motion was amended to note that we would check with the school foundation first. Mark Klein agreed to Keith's amendment. The motion as amended was approved unanimously.

Barnelopet: Based on a recent meeting involving Wayne and John with the Ski Tigers organization, the Ski Tigers are interested in taking over the event eventually. There is also an interest in moving the event to Saturday from Sunday. No follow-up meeting has been set at this point. Jason, Mark Klein, John, Jay, and Wayne all plan to volunteer. More volunteers will be needed for trail monitors in the gorge. Jay noted the need to cover all junctions. Promotion of the event through the Gazette in the comics banner, the upper left of the front page, and in the Winter Carnival guide was discussed and authorized.

Trail 17: After discussion of trail name options and to remove confusion with snowmobile trail 17, Keith moved that the trail be named "Creekside Connector". Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. There was discussion about the lack of railings on the bridge, but it was noted that there were no complaints about this. We will need to take down the silt fence in the spring.

Succession Planning: Brett is interested in the Treasurer's role and will meet with John.

Biker Report: Ian and Murphy reported that the trails were great this past weekend. Kyle has been doing a great job grooming.

Trail Updates: John reported that the snowshoe trail is great, but the "no walking" signs are not having an effect.

Press: We will send Ben Garbacz information on Barnelopet.

Wuebbens: They are keeping Tomasi Road open to haul sand.

Budget: No report.

Vision and Goals: Nate has posted these on the shared drive. Jay noted paint ball biathlon. There was also discussion of the shared drive updating and new reports and the bike skills area. Ian noted the need to add Long Bridge. Grooming of a fat bike trail near the city as discussed and Wayne noted the Boy Scout Trail.

Signs: The foot traffic signs are up and working on snow bike trails. Stop signs at the DNR Trail crossings was discussed. John says yes at Hodges. This needs to be examined. Nate noted the opportunity to promote etiquette at the Luminary Ski where we should emphasize walking only on that night and highlight right-of-way (hikers/skiers/bikers). Jay brought up a possible triangle sign to cover this. Wayne brought up signaling when passing.

Long Bridge: Ian indicated that this is in a holding pattern for now. There was some discussion around how Colin grooms to a point before the bridge. Ian will take a closer look in the spring and Sue Ellen will help with materials.

Canopy for Events: Level Up can produce for the Chain Drive. They do these for specialized events and will be free with our and their logos.

Sign Posts: Buried with snow, so we will get after these in the spring.

Business Sponsors: Nate, Ian, and Murphy meeting to produce perk packages. There was discussion of the Copper Harbor Trails Club Newsletter and reaching out to Haley Goodreau to set one up for us. \$150 to set up, \$75/newsletter, and Mail Chimp at \$700 for four times per year.

Contract with Kyle: John gave Kyle a service contract which talks about a fixed amount per time out. Waiting on a signed contract, then we will pay his company per invoice (\$50 per time out which is roughly equal to his current pay). He is more interested in summer work. Mark Klein moved that the board authorize John to sign a contract with Kyle to groom the snowbike trails. Nate supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Insurance for Snowmobile: John talked to the Tervo Agency. The cost is \$140 to \$150/machine which would provide property insurance. Our service agreement says we provide the machine. Jay asked about getting a certificate of insurance. John will find out if coverage is market value or replacement value and where it needs to be stored. John moved that we buy the insurance coverage at a cost of up to \$400/year. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Knowledge Management: Eric reported that this is going well and pointed to where the email and password are located. There are live links with the agenda and the minutes to allow for self-editing.

Calendar: Jay reviewed. The Snow Duro is not happening this year. The annual meeting will be on the third Tuesday in May. The Chain Drive will be on Father's Day.

MOU: We will continue to discuss the topic of easements or MOUs with landowners.

Chalet: The Club will need to reserve it for our meetings and events.

Ian indicated that he would be willing to help with the Barnelopet.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.