

**Hancock Trails Club
Board of Directors Meeting
July 15, 2025**

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, Jesse Wiederhold, Nate Laakonen, Mark Klein, Eric Watkins, Brett Hauswirth, Ian Helman, Murphy Mallow, and Dean Woodbeck as the City of Hancock Representative.
Absent: Keith Meyers, Mariana Grohowski. Guests: John Diebel.

The July 15th meeting was convened by President Jay Green at 7:05 pm. The minutes were recorded by Mark Roberts in Keith's absence.

One change was made to the agenda: discussion of the CD coming due.

Minutes of the June 17, 2025 meeting: Jay had several corrections:

The Skyway Trail is partly on the Hancock Township Property.

The Snowcat price should be \$120,000 not \$150,000.

In the Grants section, a sentence needs to be added for someone to contact MTU about Forestry signs as required by the grant.

A comment was made that the minutes need to be circulated to the board before the day of the next meeting.

Jay moved and Murphy seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended, which was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Dean Woodbeck reported 3 items:

1. The Hancock Recreation Committee recommended that the City of Hancock fund \$14,000 to help replace the UTV.
2. Far North has been contracted to build a trail from the City campground to the skills park.
3. Dean has been appointed by the City to serve as the City's representative on the Hancock Trails Club Board of Directors (this is an advisory, non-voting position).

John had no comments at this time, but will contribute to other items below.

Groomer Report: No groomers were present and there were no reports of grooming issues.

Treasurer's Report: John D. reports that our accounts are as follows:

Fund	Account Type	Balance
General Operations		
	HTC Checking	\$4,560.01
	HTC Money Market	\$46,833.24
	KNSC Checking	\$372.03
Reserve Funds		
	5 mo. Certificate of Deposit	\$101,577.98
Total		\$153,343.26

All of these accounts are held at Huntington Bank in Hancock.

John is working on the chart of accounts to convert our accounting software to Quickbooks before turning this over to Brett. The assets categories are completed but he is still working on the expenses. The Board should review these account categories before making the full conversion.

The Certificate of Deposit matures on Aug. 2 and will roll over unless we want to cash it out. Discussion followed about our upcoming cash needs for the Skills Park development and the UTV replacement. The Board consensus is that we cash the CD, see what are cash needs are over the next few months, and consider purchasing another CD in the future.

Eric moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Jesse seconded the motion. There was unanimous acceptance.

BUSINESS:

Membership Fees: Some other areas in the multi-pass system are increasing their membership fees this summer and Tech needs to know in the next few weeks what our membership fees will be. We currently offer individual memberships for \$75 per year and family for \$95. Some board members think we are undercharging while others noted our more limited services (no skating) and our struggles with grooming quality. Others noted that we are not in a cash short situation, thus an increase in fees was not a pressing concern. Mark R. moved that we increase the family membership to \$100 per year and leave the individual at \$75 per year. This was seconded by Murphy. The motion passed with 8 in favor and 1 abstention.

John will convey our new fee structure to MTU.

Nordic Pulse: There is discussion among local ski areas to add the Nordic Pulse groomer tracking and reporting system to post online which trails have been and are being groomed. There is a fee for this service and we are not sure of various details and if this would be useful for our trail users. We decided to learn more about this before we discuss it further.

Goshawks: Recent reports about the Goshawks on the PowPow loops indicate that they have stopped defending their territory, thus no action seems needed at this time.

Grants: Keith just submitted the grant proposal to Copper Shores for their small grants program to help fund the UTV replacement.

Destination Development and the Skills Park: The public fundraising campaign was launched 8 days ago and \$10,500 has been received so far. The Portage Health Foundation agreed to contribute \$5,000 and they have been invoiced. So we are about \$4,000 away from what we need to match the requirement for an additional \$50,000 in MEDC funding. It was suggested that we talk to businesses such as Superior National Bank and also the Downtown Development Association.

Nate & Ian will represent the HTC at the Key ingredients street party in Hancock Friday evening and invite others to join in from 6 to 8.

Ian reminded everyone of the walk through of the Superior Sand & Gravel property with owner Dave Matila on Wednesday, July 16 at 4:30 pm at the Chalet.

The HTC will have its tent on Quincy Green at the Canal Run this coming Saturday.

Hancock Township: Jay needs to prepare a new purchase agreement and get this to the township.

Biker Report: Kyle is working on the trails. Summer mowing is underway. Doug Opliger donated a weed wacker and accessories. John noted that the UTV was having some starting issues, but these seem to have been resolved for now.

Murphy reports that the Chain Drive was a big success with 150 registrants and \$3000 in gains from this. John will invoice Cross Country Sports for a donation which is due.

Trail Updates: Nothing to report.

Wuebben's: Nothing to report.

Budget: Jay has prepared a general budget but needs to include snow biking equipment and to readjust the reserve schedule for inflation and other adjustments.

Merchandise: Murphy had nothing to report.

Insurance: HTC has a Board of Directors liability policy.

Now that the snowmobiles are not stored on City property, there is no policy for them. John will check on getting property insurance for them and will ask about liability as well.

Insurance for landowners is provided by the City but we need to be sure that the City knows who they are to include on their list. The map that Ian made has this information and this needs to be given to the City.

Knowledge Management: Over the past month, Eric has been sending emails to the Board members about organizing 6 committees to conduct much of the HTC business. We decided to go ahead with the basic structure that Eric provided (the initial meeting organizer indicated in bold):

- Executive Committee: **Jay**, Brett, Eric, Keith
- Finance: **Brett**, John, Ian, Jesse
- Trails: **Nate**, Mark K, Mark R
- Events: **Mark R**, Murphy, Mark K, Jay
- Communications & Outreach: **Ian**, Murphy, Nate, Jesse
- Organizational: **Eric**, Mare

Long Bridge: There is approval and financial support from Sue Ellen. Ian contacted KLT to see if there are volunteer workers available. KLT has no spare capacity this year but will be putting this project on the schedule for next year. In the meantime, Nate & the Trails committee can make sure the loose boards are screwed down to make it safe.

Old Sign Posts: Dean has removed some of them, the rest can be dealt with once mowing is done. This item should be taken off the agenda and assigned to the Trails Committee.

Business Sponsors: The new plan that was developed should be rolled out in August/September (but in the future should start in July/August). This is part of the Communications/Outreach Committees responsibility.

Vision and Goals: This will become part of the Organizational Committee's role.

Contract Work: Goodreau has completed the layout/format work. Hiltunen is conducting mowing and trail maintenance work.

Budget: This is part of the Finance Committee's responsibility and Jay will help with that.

Snowcat: John reported on this via email.:

Committees: Discussed and organized above.

Further Comments from John: The City has apparently received about \$300,000 of payments from FEMA out of the approximately \$1.2 million original FEMA flood relief funding. Mary is optimistic that the rest will be paid eventually.

John had a discussion with someone who has been parking on the tight curve on the Cemetery Road at the Skyway Trail and informed them to park below. No parking signs need to be placed there and all along the cemetery road.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting: August 19