

**Hancock Trails Club
Board Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2025**

Attendance: Jay Green, Eric Watkins, Brett Hauswirth, Nate Laakonen, Mark Klein, Ian Helman, Mare Grohowski, Jesse Wiederhold, and Keith Meyers. Absent: Murphy Mallow
Guests: John Diebel and Dean Woodbeck

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

Agenda: Jay added late grooming

Introductions: With new members Brett Hauswirth, Mare Grohowski, and Jesse Wiederhold joining the board, the entire board, including the new members, introduced themselves.

Minutes: John Diebel noted a clarification under the Treasurer's Report. Mark Roberts moved approval of the minutes with John's clarification and Keith supported the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Dean indicated that he would speak to Mary Babcock about the city's seat on the board.

Groomers Report: None were present, so no report.

Treasurer's Report: John Diebel reported that the Club has \$150,336.44 across all accounts. The \$100,000 certificate of deposit will mature on August 2nd. With the MTU reconciliation, the Club will receive a little more than \$7,000 which is on target for the budget. We brought in roughly \$2,000 with daily passes. \$10,000 from the Building Fund is going to Far North and we are holding \$20,000 more for the Lower Creekside project. Ian projected a total need of \$27,500. On grooming equipment expenses, about \$13,000 has paid out by the city. We paid \$760 for the Wolverine. Nate inquired about how liquid we are going into the crowd funding. John indicated there was no issue here given the 30-day timeline. Brett will be added to the Huntington Bank accounts. Keith moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Mark Klein supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Wayne Stordahl Resignation/Election of Officers: Mark Roberts moved that the board accept Wayne's resignation. Nate supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Mark Roberts suggested that we provide a big thank you to Wayne for his service. John suggested that the trailhead kiosk be named in Wayne's honor. While there was no motion, there was unanimous support from the board for this idea. Keith suggested that we get with Ben Garbacz with the Daily Mining Gazette for a story about Wayne. Jesse suggested Mark Wilcox instead. Nate suggested that we get with the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation to recommend Wayne for their Do-Good volunteer recognition. Keith indicated that he would contact Michael Babcock at Copper Shores and Keith and Jesse will work on pulling background

information together on Wayne for both angles of recognition. Dean will talk with Mary Babcock about the naming of the kiosk.

On the vacant board position, Jay indicated a willingness to do another year but would want a vice-president to replace him. There are currently two years left on Wayne's term. Mark Roberts asked if there was anyone willing to step in as President now. Jay reviewed the roles of the President. Mark Roberts read the responsibilities as set forth in the by-laws, including the budget, relationships with city, landowners, and Keweenaw Trails Alliance. Keith moved electing Jay back to the board and appointing him as President. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Mark Roberts nominated Brett Hauswirth as Treasurer. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Mark Roberts pointed out that we can have multiple vice-presidents. Eric expressed a willingness to be vice-president. Keith supported Eric's self-nomination with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Keith indicated a willingness to continue serving as Secretary but wanted to be sure that the board did not see a conflict of interest since he currently leads the Chassell Trails organization. Mark Roberts indicated that he did not see a conflict. Jay nominated Keith as Secretary and Nate supported the nomination with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting: The event went well and there were no follow-up questions about it.

Groomers Bonus: Jay provided background on this for the benefit of the new board members and reviewed potential bonus pools of \$3,500 and \$3,000 and proportional distribution based on hours worked by John, Tyler, and Colin. Nate asked about Wolf Meingast. Jay noted that Wolf did not clock any hours this year. Dean noted that the city contributes \$20,000 to \$25,000 toward the trails. Ian moved for the approval of the \$3,500 pool per the allocation presented. Keith supported the motion with a second. Mark Roberts expressed concern about the quality of the grooming this past season as well as the lack of communication with Wolf. Mark advocated for the lower pool. After this discussion, the motion failed on a 6 to 4 vote. Mark Roberts moved for the approval of the \$3,000 pool per the allocation presented. Mare supported the motion with a second. The motion passed with nine voting for approval and one voting against approval.

Next Season: Tyler's work ethic was discussed as an issue. Mark Roberts indicated that he has a lead on a potential groomer. John indicated that he has a neighbor who may be a possibility.

Grooming Committee Volunteers: Grooming Committee to find prospects and to manage the groomers by defining expectations and goals. Keith and Jesse both volunteered. Wolf might be a good member as a non-board member. Craig Hughes was identified as a resource as well. Dean brought up how Swedetown will be using Nordic Pulse as a method for tracking groomer activity.

Wuebbens: It was noted that there is supposed to be a land exchange discussion about the Gorge taking place tomorrow. Nate brought up the possibility of our eighty acres going into the Keweenaw Land Trust.

Grants: Community Foundation of the U.P. Sustainability and Wildlife Fund. Jay reported that we received \$3,000 with \$2,000 for the UTV and \$1,000 for signs relevant to forestry to identify trees and sustainability. Jay moved that we approve the grant agreement. Mark supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. There is a Copper Shores Community Health Foundation Small Grant opportunity for up to \$2,500 that closes on July 14th. It was discussed that the board should pursue this funding to support the acquisition of the Kawasaki UTV from M & M. The Hancock Recreation Commission will be taking up a proposal to recommend that the Council support this acquisition with \$14,000. Keith indicated that he would draft the grant proposal.

Skills Park: Nate noted the email that Ian had sent out and asked if there were any questions. Jay asked about the property boundaries. The city will be providing \$10,000 in cash, \$10,000 in-kind, and will be doing the fence installation. Jesse asked about the timeline for the project. Trail construction will take place this summer into the fall with a grand opening next year.

Hancock Township: This involves the land being given to the Club by the township adjoining the Skyway Trail. Jay discussed his communication with equalization. We will get a new purchase agreement and hope to resolve this in either July or August. The assessor valued the land at \$1,800.

Bikers Report: Nate noted the establishment of a new connector trail from High Point Road. Goshawk attacks have been an issue this summer. Nate noted the mini-excavator work on the Creekside Connector Trail to improve ditching and removing roots. Kyle has been too busy with surveying to help with summer work, but he will be more available in July.

Chain Drive: There were about 150 participants and about \$3,000 in donations. We are low on hats, and we need to order fifty more. Mark Roberts moved that Murphy be authorize buy the additional hats and jay supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trail Updates: None

Snowcat: The board discussed the Snow Rabbit which weighs 6,000 pounds. There is a dealer for this Italian manufactured equipment near Rhinelander, Wisconsin. They have a used unit with low hours which includes a tiller and tracksetter and a plow in front for \$150,000. We will need to check with OHM to see if the bridges could handle its weight. Nate asked if this would replace using a UTV. Jay indicated, yes. Mark Klein noted that this will not replace grooming equipment and that we should talk with Swedetown.

Committees: There was a discussion about board committees where we could get more work accomplished ahead of board meetings. Nine committees (nomination, business sponsor, vision, strategic, grooming, website, maps/signs, publicity) were discussed as well as nine events. A closer look will be taken about how to combine many of these.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.