Hancock Trails Club
Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

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

Jay convened the meeting just after 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: No Changes

Minutes: Keith noted that he had incorporated changes emailed to him by Dean. Mark Roberts moved that the minutes be approved with Dean's changes. Mare supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments: John noted that he hopes to finish mowing in the next week. He indicated that he has been mowing with the Kodiak and will plan to advertise it after the mowing is completed. John also noted that the city may be interested in the Kodiak.

Treasurer's Report: Brett's submitted report highlighted total cash and bank accounts totaling $191,163.35. Brett highlighted the interest on the money market and recent mowing expenses. John noted that he had submitted the required annual report to the state. Eric moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Murphy supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Committee: Jay noted that he is working on the purchase agreement and will get it to Hancock Township at their next board meeting.

Finance Committee: Expenses will be coming through for the wheel assembly for the new mower. John indicated that a resolution is needed for the LARA filing with the state to change the Treasurer from him to Brett. Jay moved for approval of a resolution to name Brett Hauswith as Treasurer to replace John Diebel. Brett supported the motion with a second. The resolution was approved unanimously. Brett and Jay will be getting together on the budget. Eric asked to be included in this meeting.

Trails Committee: Mark Klein noted a discussion between Craig Hughes and Nate where useful information was gained on grooming. This report can be found on the Club's shared drive. Mark reported that the meeting with John and Colin Pekkala went well. Colin is willing to do mechanic work when possible and John is willing to be the head groomer. Tyler will not be here. Jeff Bloom is retiring and is interested as well as Kyle Forsman. John is impressed by Kyle. It will be up to John, and he will be talking to Kyle. Kevin Seif is interested as well. John will talk to Wolf too. It looks like a better crew this year. The Copper Shores concept paper was submitted. Purchasing the Kawaski UTV from M & M was discussed. They have two on hand. The city has written the $14,000 check. John Diebel suggested purchasing sooner rather than later due to add-ons that Colin will need to make to the vehicle. Mark Roberts moved that the Club move forward with the Kawasaki UTV purchase for up to $35,000. Jesse supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. John reported on the mowing indicating that the machine has been working well John indicated that Tomasi, Vista, Outback, Sunset, and Mud Lake are next and Upper Creekside too. We will be mowing the field at the observation tower at Churning Rapids as a courtesy to Terry and Sue Ellen as well as the Keweenaw Land Trust. Ian reported that the Creekside Trail project is going well. A soft opening is planned for September 26th on two of the trails, including the kids loop and one with a couple of features. Picnic tables are currently being constructed by Hancock Central High School. Ian and Nate met with Ebb & Flow (Brett and Eric Palosaari) and went on a ride to show the potential build sites with one to avoid Iron Ring and another to create a loop for Skyway to take advantage of the Messner land purchase. The Keweenaw Community Foundation grant opportunity was discussed as a potential source of funds for the club to pursue. Mark Roberts reported that he had looked at Long Bridge and 2 x 8 beams need replacement, but not this season. A work session is needed to fasten the loose boards. He indicated that he will be setting something up. Jay noted receiving a note from Dean to talk about the relationship with the city. He will sit down with Dean and start there. Eric asked about the soft opening. Ian noted that it is not an event as the formal opening will occur in the spring. Jay thanked Mark Klein and Mare for their work on the concept paper.

Events Committee: Mark Roberts reviewed the upcoming events and the responsible individuals: Luminary Ski – Mark Roberts; Milwaukee Skiers – Don't know; Snowshoe Social – Jay; Heikinpaiva – Keith; Barkell – Wayne willing to help and line up volunteers – Jay to reach out to Principal Mollie Trewartha; Barnelopet – Diane Oplet; Retro Ski – Jay; Glide-N-Gorge – Ishi Keenum – Mark Roberts shared documents to be digitized by Mare – Candy will help; Sno-Duro – Mark Klein indicated that this is still to be decided; and Running Events – Mare will coordinate. Mark Roberts indicated that the Luminary Ski will be discussed at the October meeting. John indicated that we have two hundred bags on hand. February 28th was discussed as the date for the Glide-N-Gorge. Barnelopet is tentatively set for the Sunday after Winter Carnival.

Communication & Outreach Committee: Ian indicated that business sponsorships have been kicked off with an email to member businesses and a general email to other businesses. Border Grill is already committed to the Sisu Tier at $300 and Errico Electric to the Gorge Tier at $750. Letters next and a follow up email on October 1st. Packets with sponsorship information to be handed out through visits from board members. Ian asked each board member to deliver five each. The highest tier of sponsorship is the Skyway at $1,500. Keith indicated that he will mention sponsorship when he is on WMPL on Tuesday morning.

Organizational Committee: Eric noted vision and strategic planning as activities to be undertaken. Ian noted that to submit a sponsorship request with Semco you must have measurable annual goals. A trails sustainability plan will be developed and we have reached out to the Copper Harbor Trails Club on this topic. Still testing out the new committee structure and may scale back agenda items. Developing a grant schedule is also seen as important.

Other: Eric noted the need to work toward measurable goals, maintaining trails, and grooming. Ian noted the need to publicize an impact document that highlights measurable actions taken by HTC over the course of the year. Jay mentioned the possibility of trail counters for trailheads. It was noted that Julia Peterson has a trail counter at Horseshoe Harbor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.