

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

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

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

Agenda: No changes.

Minutes: Keith indicated that Mark Roberts noted a missing word under the Barnelopet report and Jay recommended an addition to another part of that report. Mark Roberts moved approving the minutes as amended. John supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers Report: None present. Nate indicated that they had been out four nights on the bike trails in the last month for 15 hours, which is down quite a bit from last month. There was discussion about how doing it at night helps the trails set up better.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that annual memberships are 40% ahead of last year. The CD has been rolled over with \$36,000 out of the money market account to top it off at \$100,000. It will mature on August 3rd. We currently have \$150,728.61 across all accounts. Two more business sponsorships have come in. Sterile State is the only one not in. We received a \$500 donation from UP Travel. John discussed recently exceeding the cash deposit limit, but was able to work out a refund of the charge. Among expenses was \$150 to HB Creative for the newsletter. The winter tax bill was paid. Jay went to the Board of Review, and we will be tax exempt with the next cycle. We are waiting for an invoice from the Daily Mining Gazette. The Barnelopet cost us \$106 this year. Mark Roberts asked about assets, particularly about only seeing two sheds on the list. Also, we are only showing one snowmobile when there should be two. Keith moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Jason supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting: We have a May 20th reservation at the Orpheum. We have a membership list as of March 15 that needs to be augmented with any recent additions that MTU may have. Using Simply Voting at a cost of \$200 will help to ensure that we have 10% of the membership vote as required by the By Laws. There was a discussion of the positions to be filled on the board as Wayne is retiring. Jason noted that if his term is up that he will be stepping down. John indicated that he had talked with Erin Sythe's parents and would check with her again. Nate noted that the Copper Harbors Trail Club had just posted its board member application. Keith discussed having reached out to Mare Growhowski. Carolyn Meingast was also discussed as a potential candidate. The call for nominations will be in place until May 1st and the ballot will be sent out on May 5th with the voting closed at noon on May 20th. There was a discussion about opening nominations

at the meeting if we do not have enough board members. Nate suggested closing nominations and if someone is interested, we could add them at a subsequent board meeting. Jay asked if the Orpheum has a screen for showing movies. Nate suggested that we have paper ballots available ahead of time.

Budget: Jay presented a draft budget for 8/1/2024 through 7/31/2025 and proceeded to review the categories. John indicated that the Hancock Recreation Commission wants to see our replacement schedule. We are scheduled to replace the Outlander, but the Defender is in worse shape. Nate asked if we should better define the Building Fund. Jay discussed how it was used for the purchase of the Wolverine and how it has effectively worked as a slush fund.

Visit Keweenaw Destination Development Grant: The Grillhouse Trail project was presented to the City Recreation Committee. The Club needs to commit \$20,000. The deadline for the application is March 31st. We will need a motion for financial support for at least \$20,000 to fund the proposal from Far North. John discussed the \$37,000 that went into the Sky Way project. It was noted that we never got a bid from Ebb & Flow. There was discussion about a potential incursion by Superior Sand & Gravel. Ian indicated that he has talked to Dave Mattila and will discuss this more with him this summer. Jay indicated that he was comfortable committing up to \$27,000 for the project. Jay moved committing up to \$27,000 from the building fund for the grant proposal. John supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Glide-N-Gorge: Jay indicated that we had been willing to do a minimal event including a fire in the gorge with goodies and drinks at the Chalet. Unfortunately, the weather forecast was not good, so the event was called off. Our plan will be to start planning early next year.

Barkell: Jay ordered and received ten bindings for about \$210. There is now too much grass and mud this past Wednesday. Most classes have skied at least twice.

Bikers: Nothing.

Trails: Mark Roberts indicated his disappointment with the grooming as there has been none for weeks.

Wuebbens: Nothing. John noted that a road may go through the area where the shed is located, but no worry for now. There are no changes regarding Gorge.

Long Bridge: Nothing.

Sign Posts: We will address these in the spring.

Business Sponsors: The committee is working on the list. Eric brought up the possibility of having a plaque.

Contract Work: Haley Goodreau is working on one. Kyle's is set up.

Snowmobile Insurance: They are currently covered from a property standpoint.

Knowledge Management: The agenda is going forward. Jay will produce it a week ahead of our meetings and email it to Eric to post, then board members can comment.

MOUs: Letter to bike landowners to be produced.

Treasurer: We are still looking for a candidate.

Community Foundation of the U.P. grant opportunity: Jay feels we should do it to seek funding for the new side-by-side. He will ask for \$3,000.

Hancock Township: \$9 for nine acres, plus the filing fee which will be less than \$500.

Snow Cats: The board discussed this as potential future grooming equipment direction. Weight, size, and price are the likely issues. The Snow Rabbit, an Italian made unit, weighs 5,000 pounds and costs between \$146,000 and \$150,000 new.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.