

**Hancock Trails Club
Board of Directors Meeting
November 21, 2023**

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, and Mark Klein.
Absent: Keith Meyers, Nate Laakonen, Murphy Mallow. No guests were present

The November 21st meeting was convened by President Jay Green at 7:05 pm. The minutes were recorded by Mark Roberts in Keith's absence.

No changes were made to the agenda.

Minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting: These minutes have not yet been circulated, thus were not discussed or approved.

Public Comment: None.

Groomer Report: Groomers were not present but John D. reports that equipment is being readied and Colin and John P. have submitted some hours worked to the City for time spent preparing our grooming equipment. There are a few winterizing tasks yet to be done. There is a small coolant leak on the new Defender that will need attention. Zach Wilk has been hired as our new groomer and has completed all the steps to be a part time City employee.

Some work should be done on Sidewinder Pass to smooth out some bumps. The "Trail Closed" tape and signs need to be taken down once we get snow, and the hay bale fence needs to be replaced.

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

Fund	Account Type	Balance
General Operations		
	HTC Checking	\$2,300.00
	HTC Money Market	\$21,203.57
	KNSC Checking	\$2,684.79
Reserve Funds		
	11 mo. Certificate of Deposit	\$60,000.00
	7 mo. Certificate of Deposit	\$60,000.00
Total		\$146,188.36

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

John D. reported that there was some confusion with the bank when new accounts were set up in the Hancock Trails Club name, but that has been resolved. The KNSC checking account remains open to allow us to process checks that are written under the KNSC name, but once that no longer takes place this account will be closed. John D. has a debit card, but we were declined a new credit card because the bank thinks we are a new entity, John is checking into that issue.

Significant expenses have been \$1300 for initial development of the new HTC web site and John has purchased 3 DNR snowmobile passes for our machines.

Jay described how the Swedetown Trails Club has set up 3 different “accounts”: winter trails, summer trails and chalet/general operations and wondered if we want to consider such a financial arrangement. We discussed some of the issues with this but can consider it in the future. We also discussed the donations/pay pipes.

Jason moved to accept the Treasurer’s report and Wayne seconded the motion. There was unanimous acceptance.

BUSINESS:

KCF Grants: Jay discussed having submitted 3 applications for grants from the Keweenaw Community Foundation to help support the Barnelopet, but hasn’t heard back about those and will check on this.

Trail updates: John D. and Jason will work on the minor bumps to be smoothed out on Sidewinder on Friday, Nov. 24, as well as doing some minor weedwacking. There is a tree down on the Pine Loop that needs to be removed. John D. will get 18 bales of hay for restoring the “hay bale fence”, which will be done when we start to get snow. The DNR trail is apparently closed at certain times of the day during rifle season.

Signs and Maps: Dean Woodbeck was absent, but reports that the final report has been submitted for the signs, maps and trail improvement grant. A press release was sent to local media on Thursday, Nov. 16. It is also now on the Copper Shores website. He will also send it to the Keweenaw Trails email list. An HTC press release has been drafted and will be sent once the new website is up and running. There are a few more signs that need to be printed and installed now that this season’s trail work has been completed. Dean requests \$250 for additional signs. Jayson moves and John D. seconds authorizing up to \$250 be spent on signs. This motion passed unanimously. Dean is working with MyWebMaestro on the new HTC website and wanted advice about which general layout to use. We discussed the two options presented and want a combination of the best features from each. Jay will give these details to Dean.

Bike Trails: Nate and various volunteers are getting the fall leaves blown off the trails. There is some sort of large excavation taking place on a small piece of the Field of Dreams trail near Lake Annie. It is only a minor reroute around this, but we don’t know what it is all about. Jay discussed his preparation of a letter to land owners thanking them for the use of their lands for our trails.

Wuebben’s Lands: There has not been any contact with the Wuebbens for several months and John D. has been trying to talk to them about opening up the old Trail 17, but so far, no response. John D. talked to Mary Babcock and she hasn’t heard anything from them either.

John D. reports that the Hancock City Recreational Committee received a very strong response concerning the need to get permanent legal access to the trails over private lands, especially in Swedetown Gorge. The Recreation Committee has listed access as an item on the 5 year recreation plan, which makes this issue a City priority and available for grants and funding.

UTV: The new UTV has been paid for in full, with no direct financial support from the City. There could potentially be an issue when selling our used equipment if the City insists that sales go through their

cumbersome resale process, but this is not an issue for Mary Babcock. Also mentioned was a potential issue that our groomers are City employees but do not report to the City. Again, this has not been an issue with Mary so no action is needed.

Trail 17: We would like to open this up to get the skiers and bikers off of Tomasi Road and the Wuebbens seemed fine with this idea, but we are waiting for an official ok from them before we start working on this. In the meantime, Mark R. will get measurements of the structures that will be needed to cross the small ditches and will prepare a materials list so that we are ready to work on this if the opportunity is available before snowfall. John D. will continue to try to contact Jed Wuebben.

Money Market Fund: When John D. set up the new corporate accounts at Huntington Bank for the Hancock Trails Club in October, a Money Market account was established instead of a savings account, and two Certificates of Deposit were purchased for longer term savings: one for 7 months for \$60,000 and another for 11 months for \$60,000.

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.

Website: Discussed previously.

Groomers: Discussed previously. Zack Wilk has been hired by the City as our main groomer and we are just waiting for snow. Mark K. will talk to him about also grooming the snowbike trails after he has had a chance to learn the ropes of ski trail grooming. We think he should usually start grooming by 6 am in order to have the trails in good shape for morning skiers.

Presentation to the Hancock City Council: John D. made a 10 minute presentation on Nov. 20 to explain the past history of the partnership between the City and KNSC and how that has evolved into the current relationship. He had also provided the Council members with a hardcopy of this. There were no questions from the Council after his presentation, and later Mary Babcock indicated that the current relationship is fine with her.

Business Sponsors: Jay and John D. went through the list of business sponsors and various Board members reported on the status of donations. The final list of sponsors needs to be completed before the maps can be produced.

Candle Luminary: Mark R. provided a check list of the tasks that need to be done and we worked through who will do what and when up through about mid-December. We also looked at examples of putting our logo on some of the luminary bags and agreed that this could be done for about 50 of these.

The tasks assigned so far:

In November:

John D. will change the dates and name on last year's poster and get 25 printed. He will order 200 white luminary bags. He will put notices on the KNSC/HTC website and calendar. Mark R. will check the lights and get batteries or make repairs as needed.

In early December:

We will put up posters. Keith can get notices out on various of his social media. Jay will put notices on Keweenaw Trails on Dec. 1, 15, 22, 24 and 26. John D. will get banner ad for the Daily Mining Gazette to be printed on Dec. 22. Mark R. will get arrange for volunteers to help on Dec. 26. For large plastic sleds, the HTC has 2, Mark R. has 1, Jay has 1, and John D. has 1 – which should be sufficient.

Kathy Roberts has agreed to help with the drinks and help manage the Chalet during the event, to replace Jeanne Diebel.

Milwaukee Skiers: Will ski Maasto/CR on Dec. 31.

Next Board Meeting: The December meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.