

**Hancock Trails Club
Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025**

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

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

Agenda: Renewal of liability coverage was added to the agenda.

Minutes: Mark Roberts moved that the minutes be approved. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Groomers: None were present, but it was agreed that we should invite John Pekkala in the future.

Treasurer's Report: Aside from the \$15,000 Visit Keweenaw Destination Development Grant being received, there was nothing noteworthy. Keith moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was supported with a second by Eric. The motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Committee: Jay discussed the land purchase. The title company wants proof that the Township Supervisor had authorization to sign. Jay looked at Chapter 41 of the Public Law which indicates that the Township Supervisor can sign all legal papers. Jay provided this information to the title company and the township's attorney. The title company's fee will be \$450. Mare asked about the specific location of the property and Jay described the property noting that it includes the hairpin turn to the cemetery down to the waterfront. Jay also discussed his draft letter of support to the City of Hancock. Mark Roberts noted a couple of spelling errors. Jay asked for a resolution to provide a letter of support for the City's grant proposal, noting that Dean has submitted a draft to Mary Babcock. Mark Roberts moved that the board pass a resolution that the Club submit the letter of support for the City's grant proposal to the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation. Mare supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee: Jay indicated that he has started the budget. The renewal of liability coverage was discussed. General liability would cost \$933 and directors and officers coverage would cost \$450. There was discussion about the lack of clarity regarding what is covered. Nate brought up Scott Chapin in Hayward, Wisconsin. Ian has reached out to him. Jay indicated that the board should authorize payment. Nate moved that authorization for acquiring liability coverage should be authorized not to exceed \$2,000. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jay asked who is spearheading payroll and indicated that he had a quote. We will need to make sure paperwork is complete with new hires. On personnel, we will need to have the needed employer postings and do a safety program. The quote for personnel services from Paychex is \$154.40/month. The possibility of doing it for a few months was discussed, but Keith volunteered to take on this responsibility given his background in human resources and labor relations, noting that many of these materials are available through the state at no cost. There was also discussion about both workers compensation and unemployment as well as when to cut over the payroll. There was also a discussion about securing Material Data Safety sheets for the materials handled by the groomers. Keith moved that the Club approve Paychex as its payroll and workers compensation insurance provider. Mare supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Keith will contact the state about unemployment insurance and will secure posters in the event the City does not have them posted at the groomers' time clock.

Trail Updates: Sunset and Bliss are the only trails not open at this point. Thoroughfare is now open to Christensen Road. The board discussed groomer coverage of the trails and the need to set clear expectations. The committee will meet with John and ask him to attend the January meeting.

The Copper Shores grant proposal for the Snow Rabbit is close to finished with six to seven letters of support and \$46,500 in letters of commitment leaving a \$28,000 gap assuming funding of the grant.

Zach was met with at the end of the season and he plans to be back to continue work on April 20th through June 30th. There has been \$6,100 in change orders regarding the width of the entrance trail and the finish area.

We have been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Keweenaw Community Foundation for the Skinny Zone Trail. Mare moved that the Club accept the grant. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Martin Collision will be putting the lights on the new Kawasaki as well as the electrical connections for the actuators. John Diebel picked up the lights from Harbor Freight.

Nate has invited Andy Moyle to our January meeting.

Events: Mark Roberts discussed the Candle Luminary Ski coming up on December 26th. The volunteers will start setting up at 3:30 p.m. at the Chalet. Nate will handle the cookies and hot chocolate. John Diebel will take care of having the parking lot plowed. Notices are out on social media and Nate will get them on our Facebook page. It was noted that we still have two Facebook pages and will advertise on both.

Milwaukee Skiers will be here on January 3rd. John Diebel is organizing and will reserve the Chalet.

The Keweenaw Land Trust Twilight Ski will take place on January 17th from 4 to 6 p.m.

Get information to Ian about events.

On Barkell Elementary, Wayne is willing to set up volunteers. We need to find out if the new principal wants the program continued. Jay will reach out to her this week.

Communications/Outreach: See the report and get information to Ian for the newsletter. The Glide-N-Gorge will be back to the old route (pre-Fathers Day Flood). The tri-fold map is being worked on.

Organizational Committee: Eric and Mare met on the MOU development. Changes are being made to the initial template and Eric will send these out for review and will work with Jay on the landowner list. Jay will send letters ahead of the MOU. Mare has circulated a contact list. Nate will help with the list of bike trail landowners.

We need a status on Murphy Mallow.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.