

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

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

Jay convened the meeting just after 7:03 p.m.

Agenda: Mark Roberts added Milwaukee Skiers

Minutes: Jay noted two needed amendments and moved approval of the October minutes with those amendments. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers Report: None present.

Treasurer's Report: Brett was absent, but his email report did not note anything unusual. There was a credit card bill for the wheel assembly and insurance for the snowmobile. Mark Roberts mentioned the status of the Edward Jones account as he is interested in making a donation. It was noted that Tony Schwenn is the contact in the Hancock office. John Diebel noted a conversation with Dan Dahlquist about having information regarding qualified distributions on our webpage. Dean and John will figure out how to do this. It was noted that we should get Giving Tuesday on the site as well.

Executive Committee: On the land purchase, Jay went to the Hancock Township Board meeting. Mike Young got Jay the agreement two days ago. Jay will get it to the title company, and we should close by December 15, 2025. The title will cost about \$100. Eric asked about easements and ownership agreements. Jay noted that the only one with a signed easement agreement is Superior Sand & Gravel and the City which includes a 30-day notice requirement to terminate. Jay noted SS&G's willingness to consider a permanent easement. Eric asked about places where we do not have signed agreements noting potential issues where landowners may be using their property for hunting and should we do an annual letter. Jay stated that he started with an annual letter, but it is now semi-annually with a fall letter thanking them for the use of their land before the season starts with contact information for all of the board members and then an end of the season letter thanking them. Nate brought up the lack of written documentation with landowners and recommended that we have memorandums of understanding with landowners. Dean indicated that he would come up with a model for the city and Nate indicated a willingness to be a landowner model. Jay indicated there has been no contact with landowners with just bike trails and that we should include those landowners. Nate suggested getting with Nathan Miller. Jay indicated that Nathan has provided him with an example agreement. Mare suggested convening a group to work on this, which includes Mare, Jay, and Eric. It was

suggested that the current letter to landowners indicate that we are developing an MOU with landowners that you will receive next year. John Diebel reflected upon a discussion with Adam Wellstead who had discussion with landowners at Field of Dreams on two occasions where he learned that young kids are hunting out there. He indicated that we should get stay on trail signs out there. It was noted that Adam was off trail in these two instances. There was discussion about reaching out to Payne & Dolan and that we should go through local management. Mark Roberts indicated that we should go through Stan Vitton. On the Budget, Jay indicated that he is still working on it.

Trails Committee: Nate reported that the Creekside Trailhead is going strong and that Zach will still be working for at least another week. The Visit Keweenaw Destination Development Grant is being closed out, and we are waiting on the check. The picnic tables are in process. Nate discussed that Scott Chapin in Wisconsin is writing policies for trails clubs. Ian and Nate will pursue this for information. The Keweenaw Wild Ones group will be planting gardens in the bike park. John Diebel asked about the status of the trail to the campground. Dean explained the beach to the bike park trail that will be constructed by Far North at a cost of \$15,000. Nate discussed Bayside Bike Park and said that he had invited Andy Moyle to tonight's meeting, but Andy was unavailable. Andy is still interested in meeting with the board. Nate indicated that he told Andy that we are working through our insurance. Eric indicated that he had reviewed the insurance policy, and he does not see landowners. It was noted that Mike Mikkola with the Tervo agency says they are covered. The Snow Rabbit was discussed. It currently prices \$189,000.02. There will be a tariff of thirty percent. There are currently five to six in the country currently. There is a 2024 demo that the dealer can bring to show us and possibly sell to us. The Club will ask for half of the price through the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation. Mark Roberts suggested reaching out for matching funds which led to a broader discussion of crowd funding like we did on the bike park. This will be the focus of Giving Tuesday. There was also a discussion about selling one ATV and one UTV to help with the match. On the topic of groomers, Dean clarified that compensation of groomers is up to the Club this winter. Jay indicated that we need to get with Jesse about a message to the membership on Giving Tuesday. It was noted that Ian is planning to email the membership this week ahead of Giving Tuesday. Back to groomers, Jay discussed the wage proposal that had been forwarded out to the board members. Keith moved that the wage proposal be approved. Eric supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Jay moved for the approval of the job descriptions that had been forwarded to the board members. Mare supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Jay indicated that he would get with Brett on the payroll. On the trails themselves, it was noted that all downfall has been cleared. There was more discussion about trail use during hunting season. There was agreement among board members that we should be more formal on this topic with MOUs. Eric also suggested that we address use of trails during hunting season in the newsletter. The mower is currently being welded. Fall trail work is complete.

Events Committee: Jay noted on the Barnelopet that Erin Syth got a grant for the event. There will be no medals, but laser cut wood awards. The event will be called the Hancock Barnelopet with the Sons of Norway being out. We will supply volunteers and the Chalet. The Ski Tigers will be in charge. Jay asked about recognition for Wayne. Keith noted that he submitted the nomination to the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation and that Wayne received

recognition as a Do-Good Volunteer with recognition both on social media and in the Gazette. Mark Roberts indicated that he has everything ready for the Luminary Ski. The Milwaukee Skiers will be coming one last time this season. We need an organizer. John Diebel indicated that Jeanne is willing to volunteer but not coordinate. Jay will put it out on Keweenaw Trails to see if there is someone who would volunteer. It was noted that BridgeFest has been moved out one week which impacts on the Chain Drive.

Communications & Outreach Committee: There was discussion about spending authority without board approval. We need a threshold. Jay indicated that this needs more discussion. John Diebel indicated that there is about \$250 in repairs needed for the ATV before selling it. Mark Roberts moved that we approve the cost to repair the ATV. Nate supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Organizational Committee: Mare is working on grant tracking. The Glide-N-Gorge materials are on the drive. Trail counters were discussed with the possibility of having one at the bike park hub to start. There was also discussion of utilizing the International Trail Rating System as is used by the Copper Harbor Trails Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.