

**Hancock Trails Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2026**

**Attendance:** Jay Green, Eric Watkins, Brett Hauswirth, Mark Roberts, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Murphy Mallow, Ian Helman (via Zoom), Mare Grohowski (via Zoom), Dean Woodbeck, and Keith Meyers. Guest: John Diebel

Before the meeting was called to order, John Diebel notified the board of an attempt to hack the Club's QuickBooks online accounting by someone going by Sergio that put a \$56,000 bill into the Club's accounts payable. Passwords have been changed and there has been impact on other transactions.

Jay called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Agenda:** Mark Roberts added a groomer request for a small roller and the need to identify on our website that the Club is a non-profit organization. Nate indicated that walking trail should be struck from the agenda.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment aside from the pre-meeting conversation with John Diebel.

**Groomers Report:** Mark Roberts reported that Kevin attended the groomer school in Ironwood. Nate indicated that Kevin was donating the registration fee, but not his time. Mark went on to indicate that we are short on grooming staff since James quit and Kevin is not available due to maple syrup activities. Kyle and Wolf are the only remaining groomers and Kyle will not be available March 30 through April 3. The volunteer groomers Steve and Jake have not done anything. Mark suggested that we hire another groomer to line up for next year. Nate indicated that the focus should be on getting a lead groomer and getting that in the newsletter. Jay feels we should wait on the lead. John Diebel noted that Steve's time may be limited. The decision was made to advertise for a groomer. Nate noted that Kevin has indicated he does not want to be a lead groomer. Mark went on to discuss how all three ATVs needed repairs this winter. One needs a valve adjustment. One needs a winch repair. The groomers recommend getting rid of the Yamaha because they cannot see behind it. The Defender is the groomers' favorite. The groomers are recommending that Club purchase a smaller roller. Folding saws have been purchased to help the groomers cut trees.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Brett reported expenses since the last meeting including about \$2,300 in vehicle expenses, groomer wages of about \$3,000, and Glide N Gorge expenses of \$592. The vehicle repairs were three separate charges in the \$1,000 range. Eric moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Murphy supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Executive Committee:** Jay reported that he has sent a letter to the Wuebbens regarding the easement request. A landowner letter draft is being circulated among the board members. Work has continued on the budget. The annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Orpheum. The Club will buy pizza. Drinks will be at the members' expense. Jay asked the board members whose terms are expiring if they plan to run again. Mark Roberts indicated that he was still deciding. Nate said no. Mark Klein said yes. Ian indicated that he will be resigning from the board in May with one year left on his term. Keith suggested that there be competition for the one-year board term. Ian will send an email to the Club's members seeking nominations for the board positions. The board election will take place using Simply Voting with up to five votes per member/family membership. This will be for the three expiring 3-year terms, one 2-year term (Jesse's vacancy), and one 1-year term (Ian's upcoming vacancy). Those eligible to vote will need to have been members as of March 15<sup>th</sup>. Jay reported that he had sent a letter to John Pekkala thanking him for his service to the Club and that he would also be sending a letter thanking Wayne Stordahl. On Superior Sand & Gravel, it was decided to leave this as an old business item. Nate asked about the easement. Jay indicated that either party can cancel with thirty days' notice. On the rescue sleds, Jay recommended that we keep the black one and give the blue one to Keweenaw County. Nine voted yes. Nate voted no expressing concern about having it available locally.

**Trails:** Nate indicated that there have been fifteen ski reports and thirteen snow bike reports on Keweenaw Trails since the last meeting. A work list has been circulated for the summer position, and we should discuss hiring someone. Mark Roberts brought up adding the re-route around the steep hill going down to the Christensen gate. Dean indicated that he had reached out to Ebb & Flow on behalf of the City for a quote on the Campground Connector. The cost of a summer worker is estimated at \$5,000. A grand opening event for the bike park was discussed for mid-to-late summer, possibly during the Canal Run weekend. Nate reported that he advised Andy Moyle that the Club does not have the capacity to take on the Dollar Bay bike park.

**Events:** Mark Roberts reported that Barkell is complete for this year. Glide N Gorge was successful. Seventy-four tickets were sold online and more on the day of the event. There was \$1,590 in revenue and \$590 in expenses. Ishi did an excellent job leading the event. There was good feedback and everything worked out great. Jay emphasized the importance of the Glide N Gorge's value as a social event. Snow Duro will not take place this year. The annual meeting will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Queen City Running events are scheduled with coordination by Mare. Murphy noted the Chain Drive will take place on June 13<sup>th</sup> to sync up with Bridge Fest. Sign up has gone out and there will be a poster by mid-April. Ride the Keweenaw will take place in May. Jay asked if anyone attended the KCF grant writing workshop. No one had.

**Communications and Outreach:** Ian provided an update on the trifold. It will need to be updated to change to summer maps/styling. Goose Collective can prepare it for \$450. Eric moved that Goose Collective update the trifold at a price of \$450. Nate supported the motion with a second. The motion was approved unanimously. Nate asked that summer map updates be provided to him in the next week or so. Nate will work with Chris Schmidt on updates. Ian asked the board members to get with him with items for the spring newsletter. He plans to include a timeline on the Creekside completion and having a call for volunteers. Ian discussed the

possibility of working with Goose Collective on a more regular basis. Jay asked about what else could be covered. Ian gave updates to the trifold as an example in addition to taking over the newsletter. Ian will ask for a bid for services with the board in agreement about exploring this. The reimbursement request form is working well, which was confirmed by Brett as well. Dean indicated for outreach that there is an expo at HOCO arena that will feature what the Hancock Recreation Millage has done. The Hancock Trails Club will be invited to participate. This will take place in the last week of April. Dean will be there for the Recreation Commission. It is planned to be two to three hours in length. Jay noted his support for the Club participating.

**Organization Committee:** Eric covered all the MOU revisions and asked Ian to forward it to his Dad for review. The focus will be on getting the landowner letters out with the MOU during May. Nate asked Dean if the City had looked at it and Dean indicated that nothing stuck out.

**Budget:** The amortization schedule brought by John regarding the Snow Rabbit at an interest rate of 1 to 2% above the prime rate in the event we take out a loan was shared with the board. Jay indicated that he reflected it in the 2026-2027 budget. Jay indicated that he had presented to the city and feels we will not get our full request. Dean indicated that the city council was confused about the ask. Dean recommended that the proposal be formalized and typed, not handwritten. The feeling is that the Club should pay for operating costs. Dean also noted that there is heavy demand for the Recreation Millage this year. On the budget itself, discussion initially focused on the reserve funds. With total funds of \$205,900, \$103,900 of total reserve funds are split between the Equipment Reserve Fund and the Building Reserve Fund. The Club owes \$74,000 on the Bike Park which leaves \$29,900 in free cash. Looking at how much should be included in our grant proposal to the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation, the Snow Rabbit total cost of \$200,000, it was determined that we should ask for \$125,000 to be coupled with our pledges of \$52,800, an approximate \$20,000 sale of the RMAX with the balance coming from the Building Reserve Fund. The change orders for the bike park were discussed. \$6,100 would cover improving and widening the trail. At \$15,000, we would get the improving and widening as well adding the jump line. After thorough discussion, Eric moved that the board approve \$5,000 to hire a summer worker, \$15,000 for the bike park change orders/amendments, and amend our Copper Shores grant proposal amount to \$125,000. Murphy supported the motion with a second. During discussion of the motion, Mare indicated that she would update the grant proposal and get it submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.