

**Hancock Trails Club
Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 2026**

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, Nate Laakonen, Mark Klein, Eric Watkins, Brett Hauswirth, Ian Helman (via audio Zoom), Murphy Mallow. Absent: Keith Meyers, Dean Woodbeck,. Guests: John Diebel.

The April 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 to the agenda were offered.

Minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting: Due to Keith's absence, the previous Board meeting minutes were not discussed.

Public Comment: John had no comments at this time, but will contribute to other items below.

Groomer Report:

No groomers were present so Mark Roberts, as groomer liaison, summarized the report he had previously sent to the Board. The ski trails have been groomed only a few times since our March meeting due to lack of groomers (Kevin was out of town for 3 weeks, as scheduled) and poor weather conditions for grooming. The new small snowroller from Yellowstone arrived a few days ago and Jay, John D., Kevin and Mark R. assembled it this afternoon. They then proceeded to put all of the snow grooming equipment into storage in the large green shed. Some items will need some service work which should be done over the summer: one drag needs a replacement comb, one needs the plugs fixed, and the older small roller needs the 24" corrugated tube replaced. The Kodiak does not idle properly and the RMax needs a valve job.

Mark R. moved and Eric seconded the motion to have these machines serviced now, while the repair shops have slack time. The motion passed unanimously.

The need to hire more ski trail groomers was discussed.

Treasurer's Report:

John D. reported that the Quickbooks accounts had been hacked and had been frozen for the past month. He had finally been able to get them unlocked as of today. No funds or damages were done, just loss of access.:

Fund	Account Type	Balance
General Operations		
	HTC Checking	
	HTC Money Market	
	KNSC Checking	

Reserve Funds		
Total		

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

There was discussion about setting up the budget in digital format. It was also pointed out that the Treasurer's report for the Annual meeting in May should cover the entire year from May 2025 to May 2026.

BUSINESS:

Executive Committee Report by Jay:

Mare has resigned from the Board thus we now have 6 Board positions that can be filled: the 3 regular rotation ones (currently occupied by Nate, Mark K. and Mark R.) and three from resignations (Jesse, Ian and Mare). So far, it appears as if there have been 4 applicants, but more are expected.

Jay sent a letter to The Wuebbens concerning their request for an access easement across our property and our desire to inspect the location. In a few weeks we should be able to go look at the corner in question and either suggest changes to the request or accept it.

Memorandums of Understanding with the landowners are in progress and we discussed how we should begin contact. Various scenarios were discussed and if this should be combined with the regular thank you letters. No decision was reached and Jay will send thank you letters to the landowners and we will deal with the MOU's later.

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on May 19, 2026 at the Orpheum, where reservations have been made. Jay will order pizzas ahead of time. Murphy is putting together a slide show. Jay will be giving a talk recapping the past year. Eric can talk about the change to HTC of being able to hire our own employees.

We set dates for the upcoming election: Nominations will close by May 7, Notify members of the candidates by May 9, Voting begins May 10, Online voting ends at noon on May 19, In person voting takes place at the Annual Meeting on May 19. Ian has set up the ballot.

Jay reported that the City of Hancock has checked their equipment inventory and the rescue sleds are not part of their property, so we can do what we want with them.

MTU wants to know what our membership fees will be for this coming year. We discussed a few scenarios, but Eric moved and Nate seconded a motion to leave them as-is for the coming year. This motion passed unanimously.

Jay described the process of selecting officers that is done at the June meeting after the results of the election are known. Jay will be stepping down as President but will remain on the Board to help with the transition.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report.

Trails Committee:

Nate summarized the full written report that he previously sent to the Board. With respect to the posting of trail conditions to Keweenaw Trail Reports, the ski trail reports were not posted as often as done at other areas, but the bike grooming reports were posted more often. The bike trail groomers also reported their hours.

The need for a fuel tank was discussed, as it is a continual problem to keep the snow grooming machines fueled up with the 5 gallon cans that need to be constantly refilled. This problem has been discussed before but the current city fuel contract prevents other fuel options such as a free-standing fuel tank from being pursued. If we acquire a Snow Rabbit, the situation may change.

There is a need for backpack blowers for the spring and fall trail cleanup and Nate is looking into this.

We discussed the ongoing search to hire a summer trail worker and there are two applicants so far. Mark K. will follow up and also talk with Kevin.

Nate reviewed the other items in the full Trails Committee report, emphasizing that there is an extensive list of summer trails projects in his report and additional items in the To-Do list submitted by Kevin that was previously circulated to the Board by Mark R.

Events Committee Report:

Mark R. reported that all winter events have been complete (other than the cancelled Parade participation and the Snowduro). Upcoming events are the Annual General Membership meeting, Ride the Keewenaw, Queen City Foot Races, and the Chain Dive. It was explained that the only involvement HTC has in the Queen City Foot races is to provide the trails and Murphy will be the contact person.

John mentioned that HTC has been invited to participate in the Nonprofit Vendor Expo sponsored by Copper Shores Community Foundation at the Gipp Arena in Laurium on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 12 to 3. He will represent HTC, and others are welcome to join him.

Communications and Outreach Committee:

Ian reports that the summer tri-fold brochure is 90% done and will be ready for printing soon. He asked for comments and one was that clarification about the use of e-bikes on the trails was needed.

Discussion about the use of a contractor to help produce the newsletter resulted in agreement to wait until after the new Board is in place to see if anyone is interested in producing it instead of hiring it out. He reports that the spring Newsletter sent by email was opened by 70% and read by 50% of recipients.

Discussion about how to distribute the T-shirts to business sponsors resulted in dropping them off at Downwind Sports or with Chris Schmidt for recipients to pick them up.

Organization Committee:

Eric described how there is a lot of overlap between this committee and the Executive Committee. Nate made a motion to incorporate the Organizational Committee into the Executive Committee which was seconded by Eric and passed unanimously.

At the June meeting when the new Board members are seated and the Officers are selected, committee chairs can also be designated. Other appointments include the groomer liaison, business sponsor lead, possibly a newsletter editor, and other regular tasks as needed. There needs to be more education provided to new Board members about how the club works: learning who does what, where various equipment is stored and a general orientation. Outgoing Board members could help orient and provide transition to the new Board members. Mark R. will provide a document made years ago about Board member expectations. This is included below.

Jay reminded the Board that we have an existing grant in which we are committed to put up \$1000 worth of educational signs to receive an additional \$2000 of general funds. He will work on this.

Concerning payroll, Kevin worked a few hours in March and it looks like the total overall groomer payroll for this season paid by HTC was about \$7000. The City paid the groomer payroll for December and part of January. We are still waiting to be set up for unemployment insurance by the State of Michigan.

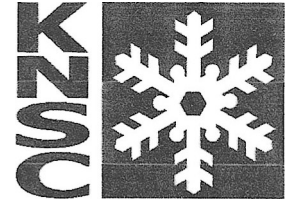
Eric is discussing possible ways to track trail use with an MTU professor. It would be beneficial to have trail use data for some of the grants we apply for.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Annual General Membership meeting at the Orpheum, May 19

KNSC Board expectations adopted 11/21/2016:

[Notes by Mark R. 4-22-2026]



Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club

For prospective board members to know what is expected before they agree to serve, and so KNSC can fulfill its mission and goals, the following board member duties are proposed:

1. assist with at least one event **or work session** [susequently added]
2. lead one or more fall trail work day [subsequently this item was crossed out]
3. recruit/retain one or more business sponsors
4. attend at least 6 of 9 board meetings in a season, not missing 3 consecutive board meetings

KNSC Bylaws. revised/approved 5/17/2016

- The Directors of the Board are elected annually from the General Membership
- Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the purposes of KNSC and who pays the annual dues required by Article IV of the Bylaws
- All Members have the right to and are encouraged to use the trail systems as maintained by the KNSC. All Members have the right to attend meetings and participate in club activities and to hold any office.

Board members are encouraged to visit KeweenawNordic.org to review:

- Annually- KNSC Bylaws; KNSC 5-Year Vision
- Monthly KNSC Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
- When appropriate — events, news, and general information
- "Follow By Email" the KNSC blog

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