

**Minutes of the
KNSC Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2017
Hancock chalet**

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Sandy Aronson, Bridget Durocher, Wayne Stordahl, Scott Lindenberg; groomers Arlyn Aronson and Colin Pekkala; member Jason Martin. Absent: Adam Wellstead, Keith Meyers.

Changes/Additions to Agenda: Emergency preparedness plan for events, Chalet door, Trail Hub, Chalet plumbing issues

Changes/Approval of Minutes of last meeting: Motion by Mark to approve as submitted, second; all in favor, passes.

Treasurer's Report: Reports provided via email and verbally by John. Motion to accept as submitted made by Wayne; second by Bridget; all in favor, passes.

Trail (Groomer's) report: The last day of grooming (assuming no big blizzards to be groomed coming up) was 3/12/17. That day marked the 60th grooming report for the season. Equipment report – below.

Public Comments: Jason Martin – snow biker – has been using the trails, interested in getting more involved.

Business:

GnG: Candi has asked to step down from organizing the event next season; she has excellent notes from the previous events and is willing to answer questions and provide guidance for the 2018 event coordinator. We'll need to recruit a new organizer; the process begins in January. Jay did purchase heat diffusers for the stoves to make heating the soups easier with less burning. Wayne applied for a \$500 sponsorship grant from the PH Auxiliary, who supported the event last year; grants have not yet been awarded.

Maasto Music Jam: planning for 2017 event continues.

Grizzly replacement: Colin and Arlyn reported that after the Grizzly's most recent break down, a new motor was installed. The groomers recommend this old Grizzly be kept as a back-up, since the ATV is the most important towing machine, and because of excessive depreciation is not worth enough to sell. Glenn Anderson was consulted on that; he agrees. General agreement was to purchase a Yamaha Kodiak ATV at a shorter replacement, and adjust the budget accordingly. Jay will meet with Glenn and the Council to verify the City's consensus with this plan and secure their financial support.

Sisu Bridge: Mark has drawn up a basic budget, based on the quote from U.P. Fab. The Meyers Bridge at Sisu Hill project will be slated for summer 2018, as it is not in imminent danger of failure, which will give us more time to fundraise for the equipment plus accomplish more "visible" trail repair projects this summer.

Snowbikes: Rider use was visibly up this season. Only early on, when snow conditions were soft, did we receive one skier complaint regarding bikers riding over the tracks. Jason Martin explains that he likes biking at MH/CR because it is close to home and he can ride all of the trails at any time, where at tech only certain trails are available and Swedetown is too far to get to and only has Tuesday evening rides. Sandy proposed an event be held next winter, for snow shoeing and snow biking, to bring more awareness and use to our trails by those users. Sandy, Bridget, and Martin will meet to start discussing logistics.

CR/summer use map: John reported that he, Jay, and Lori Hauswirth met with a MTU student who has access to mapping software, who can assist with updating the Churning Rapids maps. The student will provide updates to Jay and John for review.

Summer work committee: below

New shed: Glenn Anderson authorized Arlyn and Colin to complete the project this spring

BES ski program: For better quality trail conditions, Arlyn recommends the current “manual” track setter be upgraded with an actuated pan; the manual pan is not adequate to set a good track when the surface is hard, and a good track is important to learning classic skiing. In addition, a drag storage pole should be installed, for safety (keep it up off the ground so it does not get buried when snow is plowed and so it does not get run over by a renegade snowmobiler) and to keep the comb cleared of ice. The pole also provides storage for weights, rather than hauling them from Tomasi trailhead, which causes wear and tear on the machines especially in low-snow conditions. Estimates: YTS Track setter attachment = \$1510; pole/winch/pegs = \$250; 40 hrs labor @ \$10.50/hr. to install pan and pole = \$420. Total = \$2180 (less \$4 - 500 resale of old pan). Sandy explains, this project would be fully grant-funded; many organizations are eager to contribute to projects geared to getting children more active. Jay will follow up with MTUEFCU, PHF, and KCF for funding opportunities.

Decal, thank you/end of the season appeal letter: Sandy started working on an end-of-the-season thank you letter and supporter acknowledgement flier, plus a new KNSC decal. Recommends ongoing acknowledgements plus reminders/requests to support that campaign. The letter, flier, and quotes for printing will be emailed to the board prior to the April meeting for review. The mailing database is not expected to be available until June.

Signs: Sandy pitched several sign upgrade projects. The KNSC board is aware that many trail users do not support the trails with a membership or day pass, and for years have intended to improve signage for this purpose. A few new temporary signs were posted at the trail heads this winter but need a permanent place to be displayed. New signage ideas include: 1. Update trail maps with a strip of message at the bottom encouraging users to buy a pass (users new to the system are often seen looking at each trail map along the way, yet pass right by the large kiosk signs so “didn’t know” they should buy a pass; feedback from these users are, we should improve our signage accordingly) 2. Have The Print Shop make many 4” x 6” signs, to be posted on map sign posts and perhaps some trees with simple messages encouraging users to buy a pass (this would be “friendly reminders” and include the web address so people can visit that for more info) 3. Install at both main trail heads another large kiosk that can serve as a bulletin board, to display upcoming events, club projects, our banners, etc – to improve and increase awareness of those things. Discussion. Projects are not in the current budget; will need board approval to install as they can be funded.

Bridge railings: On the 5-year vision adopted last spring, first on the list is “Top Trail Conditions”, and under that is bridge maintenance/replacement/safety. One of the goals was to add railings “to all new bridges; add to existing bridges where feasible”. Since the Middle Bridge project, we’ve not had the funds or energy to add the railings. Recently Sandy emailed a request for a materials budget, as she’ll ask some local businesses for donations, and the City to cost share. Arlyn and Jay will draw up a budget after the snow melts; the goal would be to install the railings, an acknowledgement sign, and complete the last of our documentation for our fulfillment of the 3 grants awarded for the project.

Capital campaign: Jay reminded the board that each of us is expected to review the membership database that was emailed recently, find people who you know and can tell them about the campaign and ask them to donate. The campaign committee had hoped for this to be completed by the end of March.

Multipass/marketing: Need to work with the other trail systems to market our whole area locally and to the region. Jay was advised that the Convention & Visitor’s Bureau would be the organization to put that

together. He will contact the other trail groups to set up a meeting, and will call the Visitor's Bureau for more information.

Annual meeting: Chalet, Monday April 24th, 7:30; no potluck, just BYOB

KNSC Bd nominations for 2017-18: Bylaws allow for 5 – 11, ideal is 9. Nominations are to be taken before or during the GMM, and voting shall occur during the GMM. (Although the whole board is elected at each annual GMM, members may be nominated/elected on or resign at any time.) Established requirements include: 1. assist with at least one event 2. lead one or more fall trail work day 3. recruit/retain at least 1-2 business sponsors 4. attend at least 6 of 9 board meetings in a season, not missing 3 consecutive board meetings. Jason Martin explains, he'd like to think about coming on a bit more and will get back to us. Current members present tonight were willing to continue to serve; Mark reported that Keith was willing also. Motion by Jay to nominate this slate, second by John, all in favor. Voting of the nominees will occur at the April General Membership Meeting.

Trail maintenance/improvement committee: Arlyn, Scott, Mark, John, Jay to meet Tuesday April 18th, 7:00, Nutuini's; also, Sandy, Bridget, Martin to meet re: snowbike/snowshoe event.

Publicity/Communication - future discussion (see multipass/marketing, above)

USDA Rural Dev. Grant: Recently, Sandy noticed on the Copper Harbor Trails website that in 2013 they got funding from this program to purchase trail building equipment. Sandy contacted the local rep and received info; the first part of the application process is due on 2/28 of each year. Sandy and Jay will continue to research this funding option.

Tractor financing: No plans now.

Trail Hub: a site that offers an easy-to-post trail report, users can quickly see when trails were groomed (i.e. 2 hours ago, 3 days ago), what trails were groomed etc. Sandy explained that when she investigated this in the past, it is a site that is hosted from an eastern US state, and when searching for MI or WI ski or MTB trails, none are found in the system. So, how would this service help, if no trail users in MI or WI know to use it.

Chalet closed for toilet issues: John will post a report of that to k-trails.

Next meeting 4/24/17, chalet, 7:30

Meeting recessed at 9:18

Submitted by Sandy Aronson, KNSC Secretary

Addendum: On March 27, Sandy emailed the board: "Would anyone be interested in having the Annual General Membership Meeting at the Orpheum, to eat Studio Pizza? Maybe we could get a few members to attend. We were there for an event yesterday and asked Mike about it. He says, if we have the board and maybe a few others we can just sit out front, or in the back if we want and there is no charge for that." Replies in favor by Jay, Mark, John, Scott, Bridget, Jason; the GMM plan was updated on the website accordingly. Pizza at 6:30, brief business meeting at 7:30.