

Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mark Roberts at 7:02 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Mark Roberts, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, John Diebel, and Keith Meyers

Others in attendance: Susan Stiffler, Justin Hoffmaier, Susana Ausema, Mark Klein, John Pekkala and Colin Pekkala

Agenda: New contract for snow plowing was added to the agenda.

Review of August 14th minutes: After some discussion about the best time to have meetings (third Tuesday was agreed to), Wayne corrected the budget assumptions to read as follows: “\$2,450 to be collected from the Hancock Public Schools Foundation, \$9,000 for trail improvement grant (\$6,000 grant from Portage Health Foundation and \$3,000 match from KNNSC),” With this amendment to the minutes, John Diebel moved, Wayne Stordahl seconded and the board approved the August 14th minutes as amended with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report: John Diebel indicated that he was working on a modified budget. \$40,756 currently in checking and transferred for the tractor. \$22,046 in savings. Credit card balance of \$255. The focus was on the projection. John Diebel indicated that it is better than what’s showing given the public-school grant. Wayne Stordahl indicated that we will need to submit an itemized list (documentation of labor; \$1,400 in expenses). John Diebel reviewed line items noting that there is about \$10,000 left for bridges in the capital campaign after the tractor. \$3,000 for emergency reserve. \$8,198 City of Hancock portion of the CanAm. Nothing in here for revenue off the Grizzly, asking \$7,000. Some of this can go toward the equipment fund. Keweenaw Community Foundation extension is a double count. Operations and Maintenance (O & M) is probably high. \$6,000 for equipment reserve. \$4,893 is a conservative ending balance. Jason Martin moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Keith Meyers seconded, and the board unanimously approved the motion.

Trail Report: John Diebel indicated that Glenn Anderson wants a map to brief the City Council. Susan Stiffler indicated she went to the SDC, Downwind and Cross Country with the third asking for an updated trail map. Eric Isaacs will update the map. John Pekkala indicated that the map is 90% accurate. The River Trail in the gorge and Spring Creek are the only things we can’t groom, and that mowing is complete. Mark Roberts noted that we need to fix the bottom of Dam Hill. Sidewinder to Sisu Hill is non-groomable. Colin Pekkala has been weed whacking and John Diebel has been mowing. Colin says everything else is passable. Wayne asked if the boards can be packed up at the bottom of Sisu (all 2”x for joists and decking for extension). Mark Roberts said to bring up later in the agenda.

New Board Members: Susana Ausema indicated that her husband works on Isle Royale. She wouldn't be available to make November and December, but she would be willing to volunteer as she is passionate about these trails. Mark Roberts noted that there are six current board members now and Jay wants to keep it at nine for quorum purposes. Sandy hasn't attended since summer, nor has she resigned. There is a three-meeting missed rule, so we will wait until then. Susan Stiffler is interested in being a board member and Mark Klein is interested as well. Jason Martin moved that Susan Stiffler and Mark Klein be approved as new board members. Wayne Stordahl seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. John Diebel noted that he will add Susan and Mark to the KNSC's board members he is submitting to the state.

Collaboration with the Biking Community: Justin Hoffmaier – Red Jacket Cycling Team: Troy Eddy – Keweenaw Treadfest – MTU not hosting this year, Chain Drive – proceeds going to address flood damage; kids race – youth cycling group – proceeds go to single track flyers; asked about use of Chalet for packets...will need to get with City Manager on that; discussed potential use of showers at the arena; Father's Day weekend being considered; will need permission of the landowners; there should be a policy to indemnify land owners...John Pekkala discussed how it worked with the Chain Drive events...it those instances it was just a matter of advising that the insurance was in place. Future profits would go toward maintenance of single-track trails. Mark Roberts discussed direction toward a single club (skiing/biking).

Mark Klein discussed that he has been grooming the single-track snow trails for three years, but there is no mechanism for collecting fees. They currently have two snowmobiles. One is grant funded and the other is from donations. Could benefit from better integration with the ski trails. The trails are 30" wide with more elevation gain with turns. A snow bike trailhead would be good as Christensen Road gets overwhelmed with parking. Brooks road was discussed as an unpublicized option. John Diebel noted that Stan Vitton is in the process of selling land and may be willing to provide a trailhead. He noted that we should integrate the ski pass and figure out a way to spit funds. It was noted that Copper Harbor Trails Fund currently holds equipment, so maybe the current equipment could come over to KNSC. Mark Roberts suggested a separate meeting to discuss this.

John Pekkala and Mark Klein discussed grooming near Christensen Road. Need to think about ways to save effort. There was more discussion of a combined pass and Mark expressed interest in setting up a meeting.

Tractor Purchase: \$25,000 from the Besse Family Foundation and \$11,000 from the capital campaign. From Northland Lawn & Sport, it will be a John Deere 4044M hydrostatic transmission backhoe and loader. The expected delivery date is October 17th. Nothing grant-wise from the Portage Health Foundation. Storage in unheated part of the DPW garage might be possible. John Pekkala indicates we can work with Bill Marlor. All is set except for the publicity.

Trails: Discussed the Spring Creek re-route. It is still passable for mountain bikes. A re-route has been flagged working with Sue Ellen. She agrees if we keep it 10 feet wide. She wants saplings saved. The Keweenaw Land Trust is fine with the easement. A work day is set for

Saturday to work on it. Finlandia University may provide help. Park at end of High Point. 700 feet, partially cleared, 10 volunteers would be good.

Gates (4 made up)/Boulder moving at the Tomasi Trailhead. Currently looking for posts. Jason Martin has some leads, possibly Julio's. The gates didn't come with posts. If Jason can get them, Mark Roberts can cut them. John Pekkala suggests sooner rather than later. He assured Paul Tomasi if there is damage to gates, we will address it with boulders. If behind the tree line, it won't be a hazard to snowmobilers (discussed with DNR). Get the city loader out there to move the boulders. Jason will round up posts by Saturday. John Pekkala stressed timing issue on need to get boulder movement and gate setting to occur concurrently.

Diagonal Trail – Mark Roberts says it has a wet spot needing drainage ditch on north side and a culvert. Sue Ellen agrees (1-foot-wide, 1 foot deep, 2-6" pipe). Simple job for a back hoe or for a crew. It needs to be on the existing trail. No cutting of existing vegetation or trees. Mark Roberts noted unused bridge and suggested that biking could use it. Mark Klein indicated possible use on Upper Pow Pow.

River Trail \$6000 from Portage Health Foundation with \$3000 from us. We were unsuccessful securing a bid. Mark Roberts reviewed the bids out of budget. Need to approach the Portage Health Foundation about having Colin do the work as a grant modification. Colin pointed out it would be done the way we need it done. We would need an extension to September 30, 2019. It will be important to track both Colin's and any volunteer hours.

Wayne Stordahl indicated he was asked by the Boy Scouts if there is an opportunity. There is a lot of work to be done on Dam Hill. Pull out lumber and bring it to the top of Dam Hill. They would have to park at top of the hill.

We discussed possible coordination with landowners and Little Brothers. John Pekkala will check with Mattila. The priority now is movement of the lumber.

There was discussion of the coyote trapping going on off Tomasi Road (based on Halvorson Facebook posting)

Wayne Stordahl is seeking \$500 from the Portage Health Auxiliary for Barnelopet.

For the record, the tractor purchase and the Portage Health Auxiliary grant proposal were both approved by email since the last meeting.

Plowing Contract: Lonnie is seeking \$150/month. He has been very reliable. John Pekkala suggested time/material approach. Decided to secure additional bids with expectation that plowing be done before 10 a.m., December 1 through March 31.

Contact with Landowners: Close with Sue Ellen, Paul no. Do we want to talk with Paul about the coyote traps? John Pekkala is going to talk to Ken Hodges about the re-route and that we haven't cut or plan to cut any trees on his property. He will talk to Mattilas as well.

Fall Trail Work: Pretty well discussed at this point. Hay bale fence will need to go up at first snow by December 1.

Trail Closed signs at the top of Sisu Hill and at bottom of Sidewinder. Susan will ask where MTU gets their signs for Ripley.

Susan asked about Kiosk for fairgrounds entrance. Bridget should remember who was involved.

Equipment Replacement: Need a separate meeting. Smaller roller at Churning Rapids. Wider roller at Maasto Hiihto. Roll wide early and pack outsides. Need a meeting discuss...edify the board on grooming. Discuss options, including double track.

Gorge Recovery Plan: Recovering what we can this winter. FEMA match to be provided by state. Should know this month.

John Diebel indicated that Paul Tomasi sent an email stating his intent to sell the gorge, but once things settle down with new City Manager. Temporary easement in place. Glenn is tasked with working with Paul. The website is close to its space allocation. Nathan is deleting error messages to create space. Dean Woodbeck has volunteered short-term, but need a webmaster. We have a current calendar on the website. Ask Susana (she had already left the meeting). Wayne will talk to her.

Next meeting is November 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.