

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club  
Board Meeting  
September 10, 2019**

Attendance: Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Susan Stiffler, Mark Klein, Crissy Gerhart and Keith Meyers. Groomer: Colin Pekkala and John Pekkala Absent: Jay Green

Mark Roberts convened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

The May 21<sup>st</sup> minutes were reviewed. Correction is needed to the spelling of Crissy's name. Clarification is needed to DNR CAC. It was determined that CAC stands for Citizens Advisory Council. Jason Martin moved that we approve the minutes with these revisions. John Diebel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**What happened with the \$4,000 Hancock Recreation Committee Funds?** According to Crissy, \$713 remained and \$2,300 went to the bulldozer time on the New River Trail. The committee meets tomorrow night. John Diebel noted that there may be more money available and discussed the kiosk as a shovel-ready project that could be shared with the bike committee. John will seek clarification from Deb.

**Treasurer's Report:** John indicated that we are all wrapped up with the New River Trail Project. Pass sales have come in since the beginning of August. The new prices are now in place. John discussed a mischarge situation that had occurred before the new prices were in place, but affected individual asked us to keep the additional amount. Wayne asked about the total cost of the trail project. John indicated that it was \$19,394.53. \$12,144 plus \$7,250 in tractor time (based upon \$50/hour in machine time). \$9,000 of the \$12,144 is labor for Colin and John Pekkala and the dozer operator Jeff Blum. Wayne asked about the \$50/hour figure on the tractor time. Keith discussed how he utilized figures like this to expense into a depreciation fund to address equipment replacement when he was director for the state printing operation for the State of Kansas. Mark Roberts entertained the possibility of creating a reserve for a future tractor acquisition. John Pekkala indicated that they had used state established rates when he was drain commissioner in Flint and gave the example of how they were able to make a \$750,000 piece of equipment after accumulating \$2,000,000. This led to a discussion of coming up with a straight-line figure per year over 26 years. John Diebel will think about options. Susan Stiffler moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Jason Martin seconded the motion. The motion for acceptance was approved unanimously.

**Trail Maintenance and Improvement Report:** John Pekkala indicated that the gates were installed in May at the snowmobile trail and at the New River Trail. Beginning in June, one mile of work was completed on the New River Trail. He walked the trail with Bill Marlor, and he understood what we were trying to accomplish and offered up the bulldozer for 5 to 6 days which allowed us to save considerable tractor time. Eight culverts were installed. We will now be able to groom with 3 inches of snow. Mark Roberts noted how this approach allow KNSC to get this work accomplished without contractors. John Pekkala went on to note that Lakeside

Cemetery offered the use of its dump truck. John also noted that he pointed out the pea-sized gravel to Paul Tomasi and Paul gave the okay for its use. John noted that they hauled approximately 100 yards with about 40 yards of that going to the triangle and 40 to 50 yards going to the pines. For the eight culverts, gravel was brought from three different areas at Tomasi. Paul asked that these areas be smoothed over once the material was removed. John noted that Colin was able to knock out rocks where they were outcropping. John Diebel noted how the only contractor bid was \$35,000 and we got much more work completed for a smaller amount of money. Mark Roberts noted the emails from Terry and Sue Ellen that they were okay with fixing the mudhole. Mark said he would confirm, but Colin indicated that Terry is good with this. Based upon this input, Mark felt that we were good to go. It was noted that the Spring Creek by-pass is already good. John Pekkala indicated that he had walked in from High Pointe. The effort has been focused on making it conducive to grooming. Mark Roberts confirmed that it was okay to keep moving forward with what Colin and John are doing. Mark indicated that he had sent Terry and Sue Ellen a written plan and that they wanted to look at it. John Pekkala indicated that he would keep Terry and Sue Ellen in the loop as they go. The Diagonal Trail will be discussed later. John Diebel indicated that he had gotten two mows in this summer, one for the Chain Drive and the other the third week of July. As a result, there were no waist-high weeds this summer. Regarding fall mowing, Wayne asked about the New River Trail where there was no construction. John Diebel indicated that he will look at it. John Pekkala said let's see what the weather does as we may be able to brush this by hand. He indicated that it would be nice to knock it down before the snow comes. John Diebel noted that the edges seem to be the only thing needing attention due to the construction traffic. Jason Martin asked about mowing that had taken place on the trails between the gravel pits and Mud Lake. John Diebel said Walt Babcock is responsible for the mowing and that Arlyn and Sandy had started this. Jason indicated that it looks good.

**Public Comment:** None

**KNSC Calendar for the Upcoming Season:** Mark Roberts noted the large number of question marks so far. Starting with board meetings, it was agreed that we would go with the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. On the music fund raiser, it was noted that there wasn't a lot of enthusiasm for this. Jason indicated that Copper Harbor had gotten the Go Rounds. It was agreed to postpone this fund raiser. The Luminary Ski was set for Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. The Heikinpaiva Parade will be on the last Saturday of January (25<sup>th</sup>). The Retro Ski was set for February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Barnelopet was set for February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Glide N Gorge was set for February 29<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Membership Meeting was set for April 21<sup>st</sup>. John Diebel asked Mark Kline about bike events. There are none yet. The Bridge Fest Parade will be on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Wrap up of the Portage Health Foundation grant for the New River Trail Improvements:** Keith noted that the grant was through the Keweenaw Community Foundation with Portage Health Foundation funds. John will prepare a draft release and forward. Keith will talk to Cain about involvement. Crissy suggested a ribbon cutting. Susan suggested doing it on a Sunday. Keith will forward a pdf of the grant proposal to John Diebel.

**Bike Sign Committee Recommendations:** Crissy noted on identifiable signs that we should go with the same ones that the pedestrian committee has put out there, so we have something that

connects with other signage. There is \$713 in the budget. \$100 will go to Travis and we will have DPW put them up. Locations discussed include ¼ mile before Hancock Beach for the sledding hill and on Highway 41 going up the hill. Mark Roberts indicated that we will have Travis manage this and get prices. \$75/sign and \$200 for Koski Sign in Hancock. John Diebel moved that we follow the bike committee's recommendation and put Travis in charge with a budget of \$750. Susan Stiffler seconded the motion. Wayne asked how this intertwines. It was explained that it is skier/biker/hiker and does not change the trail signs. John Diebel indicated that we have the money. All voted in favor of the motion except for Crissy who abstained due to a conflict of interest.

**Support for 2020 Barnelopet:** John Diebel indicated that he had submitted a grant proposal to the Keweenaw Community Foundation ski fund asking for \$675. There was discussion about completing a W-9 since it is something required by Superior National Bank. It was agreed to do it.

**Hancock Recreation Committee Funding:** This was already discussed.

**Fall Trail Work: needs and use of volunteers:** Single track readiness needs are minimal according to Mark Klein. John Diebel discussed that Michigan Tech is moving to Make Difference Month from Make a Difference Day. John discussed what was done last year and that there is still lumber debris in the gorge, so we could do a continuation of the work done last year. On the topic of when to schedule and where, Sidewinder and Mud Lake were discussed as brushing opportunities. Loading lumber in a truck from a debris pile the bottom of Dam Hill was discussed. Brush cutting the New River Trail per Wayne's suggestion. The outer loop that can't be mowed out at Mud Lake. John Pekkala will look at the Mud Lake area and other areas. The Back-Country Trail access was also discussed as a possibility.

**FEMA & Gorge Recovery Plans:** John Diebel sent an email to Markham at OHM about what's up. Things are still moving. Today, Julie who was the project manager for FEMA has changed jobs. A new person has not been appointed, but Julie is trying to help. FEMA has asked for corrected GPS coordinates. It doesn't appear to be a problem with it but found three more things. It is still out there when FEMA can give it attention. Crissy suggested asking permission for a temporary bridge. The long-term fix is a boardwalk around to avoid the meadow. The preliminary cost estimate has been submitted, but these would need bid packages.

**Diagonal Trail Wet Spot Issues:** Mark Roberts indicated that he had looked at it again and Sue Ellen agreed to ditching. Upon further review, this is a wetland and we should check with EGLE. Mark feels that we should wait to groom until things freeze and when it softens quit. Agreed to leave it as is and discuss boardwalk with Sue Ellen. Maybe only ten feet if needed.

**Projects for Scout or other volunteers:** Projects for volunteers already discussed. Scouts not available in October due to camping events, but possibly November.

**ATV complaints & issues:** John Diebel indicated there were two complaints. John Pekkala indicated that he had talked with the DNR trail specialist and that we need to resolve this through discussion with Hancock. Susan Stiffler suggested having a police officer monitor speed limit.

Crissy indicated she will discuss at her meeting, but we would have to have an ordinance to address this. Winter storage for equipment was discussed. John Diebel indicated he is trying to get an estimate for a snowblower for the tractor. Wayne asked why and it was indicated that this was for clearing the area at the arena. It was indicated that Mattila may be willing to store the tractor at the trolley barn for the winter. John Pekkala indicated that he will talk with Bill Marlor to see if we can park it in the bus garage or in the back of cold storage. We will seek an agreement with Dave Mattila at the trolley barn as a last resort.

**Equipment replacement and grooming equipment requirements:** The Defender will be 5 years old. There are no issues with it according to Colin. Mark Roberts indicated that we are budgeting for it with city match. Within the next two years all three pieces will be due for replacement. The Outlander is brand new.

**Canal Run give back:** This year has not been posted according to Susan. She will touch base. Susan indicated that Jay had given her his receipts and suggested that everyone add up their own Econo Food receipts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.