

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
January 21, 2020**

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

Jay Green convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Changes to the agenda: Jay added Hancock outlet for pass sales.

Minutes: Jay noted the Chain Drive will be on June 20th and 21st.

On Barnelopet 2020, Jay noted that MTU Federal Credit Union contributed a lesser amount and that a generous donation from Steve at Edward Jones will cover - \$500 donation of which \$300 is a business sponsorship and \$200 will cover the Barnelopet. Keith moved approval of the minutes, Jay seconded the motion, and there was unanimous approval

Treasurer's Report: John noted there is \$58,856.64 in the bank (checking and savings). John noted that sales have been going well with the good conditions. The Wickley Agency and the Co-op still need to send money in for their sponsorships. Checks have come in from Finlandia and Erickson. Several general donations totaling \$2,400. Mark Klein will get with the Co-op and Keith will get with Steph Olsson at the Wickley Agency. Jack Fenton lost a check for plowing. There is no cost to cancel and write a replacement. Jason moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark Roberts seconded the motion and there was a unanimous approval.

Groomers Report: Colin noted that everything is pretty good. John Diebel and Mark Roberts reported good tracks. Colin noted taking the snow load off the pedestrian bridge over the creek. John Diebel noted that John Dee was predicting "blah" weather for the next two weeks. John Pekkala got with the principal at Barkell and with Rollie Monticello on the plowing. There has been an issue with the snowbanks around the poles which allows the drag to freeze in the snow. Snow has been brought around from the back since the roof issue. Rollie wasn't too receptive. The school should call the shots. Must get the drag off the ground. Jason knows Rollie well and he will talk to him. Jay asked about Mud Lake. John said it was good.

Public Comment: None

Bikers: Nate indicated that the Chain Drive is moving along. The website is up, and registration will begin soon. \$10 ride. Nate asked about media. Keith suggested Steve Jurmu's Live at 5 snow report on Monday. John brought up the off-trail activity. John Pekkala speculated that 90% is locals. Jay asked Nate about year-round club progress...none yet. Liability insurance for the Chain Drive was discussed and John Diebel indicated he will investigate. Mark Klein indicated that they were considering a Portage Health Foundation grant proposal for a single-track project for a professionally built Finney Creek re-route. On trail tools, Nate noted a backpack leaf blower would be helpful.

Bike Signs & Workstations: Crissy not present to report

Business Sponsors: John covered during the Treasurer's Report

Website: It was noted that the Luminary Ski is still coming up. The Heikinpaiva link is not good. Susan will look at these. The Barnelopet route description numbering is incorrect. The Barnelopet history needs to be looked at as well...12 years? The Barne Birkie started in 1987.

Portage Health Foundation Grant for New River Trail Improvements Wrap Up: John Diebel will follow up.

Heikinpaiva Parade: Staging will begin at 10:30 a.m. John Pekkala will bring a machine. Keith, Jay, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne and Bryan Milde will all be there.

Glide N Gorge: February 29th from noon until 3 p.m. No word back on sponsors yet. Jay will get with Econo Food and Jim's Foodmart. Wayne will get with Peterson's. John Diebel will get with the Co-op and Amie J's. Mark Roberts will get with Kangas Cafe. Susan will get with Pat's Foods. Jay will also get with Roy's and 5th and Elm. Agreed that we will buy a tray from the Co-op in addition to the one donated. John Diebel will handle the printing of the tickets. John Diebel will contact Sue Ellen about music. Keith mentioned JD Uponen would be an option if Sue Ellen's group is not available. Volunteers: Appetizers: Keith, Mark Roberts, Wayne and Don Severa; Gorge: Mark Klein will take the lead and Susan will seek volunteers and get with Mark. Jay will supply the gas stoves and the white board. Publicity: banner after the parade and ad in the newspaper (John Diebel will investigate this); Chalet: Jeanne and Eileen; Posters/Flyers: Susan will update what she did last year with the same ticket price.

Retro-Ski: February 2nd – will run from High Point to Christensen Road.

Barnelopet: Wayne has flyers and registration forms. Need to get it in the paper. Need to get it to the schools. It was suggested that we try through the ISD. The event requires 20 volunteers: 10 from community and 10 from KNSC. It will run from 1 to 3 p.m. Need 6 to 8 volunteers on the trail at the snowmobile crossings and pedestrian bridge, registration/check-in, medals, bib help. Jay and John indicated they would help with the trails. Question was brought up about photos. Insurance: Wayne has the certificate from the city. Jay will ask Keweenaw Trails to put out a call for volunteers. Mark Roberts will ask for volunteers over his distribution list.

FEMA/Gorge: John Diebel reported there was nothing new.

Tractor Decals & Snowblower: Keith indicated he will ask Cain again. It was agreed to drop the snowblower.

Bus Barn Update: Colin reported that the service bay is working out.

Superior Sand & Gravel Easement: John and Jay met with Dave Mattila. He is open to a permanent easement. He asked us to draw it up and he will provide it to his counsel. Nate asked

about winter/summer use. It would be both according to John Diebel. The trail going into the gorge is safe, although it may have to circle up St. Urho and back in the future.

Gorge Purchase: The city council last Wednesday authorized starting talks and would seek a DNR Trust Fund Grant for the purchase starting with Paul Tomasi. Mary considering it a go if owners discount 25% to cover match. Jay disagrees. John Diebel brought up fundraising with her. We would need a commitment on the match by April 1st. Hodges bought the Owens property so there are only three landowners. Jay believes foundations would step up. John Diebel brought up the Land Trust. It was noted that Glenn Anderson had been against that option.

Budget: Pushed to future meeting

Milwaukee Skiers: John Diebel noted there was significant revenue this year. They enjoyed the ski and the food.

Copper Country Mental Health Request: Jay indicated CCMH has requested volunteers, guides and instructors for their clients. Has been brought up with Mike Abbott and Craig Hughes. There are no ski rentals any more at MTU, only scheduling trips. Getting students wouldn't work out well. Adventure Company has the equipment. Jay told them that Maasto Hiihto would not work well for beginners. Jay will turn to Keweenaw Trails for volunteers.

Shelby Hamar Request: Tomasi/DNR trail crossing signs. We can't put things on DNR posts. Jay suggested adding stop signs along the trail. 12 x 12 stop signs, aluminum-backed, 80-mil thickness/reflective on 2 x 2 posts. Jay will proceed.

Adam Wellstead Request: For signage along SS&G – Dave Mattila is okay with what we want to do (he is okay with a fence as well). Jay thinks 6 signs. Jay reviewed design. Cost is \$371 plus shipping. Adam donated \$45. John Pekkala also noted the new signs put in by the DNR and will provide a photo to Keith who will provide feedback and information on this action to the DNR.

Pass Outlet in Hancock: Discussed potential options: Bike shop? Co-op? John Diebel indicated that most are going to the website. Jay noted that some are still going to City Hall. John recommended the bike shop. Jay indicated he will approach Mike about next year.

Next Meeting: February 11th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.