

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club  
Board Meeting  
March 17, 2020**

**Attendance:** Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Crissy Gerhart and Keith Meyers. Absent: Susan Stiffler Guest: Evan Kane

Due to COVID-19, the meeting was conducted remotely via the Zoom application and conference call. The meeting was called to order by Jay Green at 7:04 p.m.

**Land Sale:** Jay Green introduced the topic. Evan Kane advised Jay that he had received a letter about a month ago from adjacent landowners indicating they were selling two 40-acre parcels. Evan immediately called the landowners and they said they had received an offer for their properties from Paul Tomasi. The northern 40-acre landowners are interested in the preservation of the property. After bringing this to Jay's attention, Jay, John Diebel, Mark Klein, Sue Ellen Kingsly, Travis Hanson and Mark Roberts subsequently met with Pat Toczydlowski from the Keweenaw Land Trust. Evan subsequently again contacted the landowners. They are asking for \$20,000 (\$500/acre for 40 acres) and they are willing to hold off on a sale for three to six months so we can pull the money together to acquire the property. If KNSC didn't acquire the property, other options could include KLT, Hancock Township, the City of Hancock or Keweenaw Natural Areas. Jay indicated interest in buying the property with a loan and then doing a solicitation to pay it back. Crissy asked who the landowners were. Jay indicated Dermidoff and Fiegel. Jay further clarified that a loan would be paid back from donations, but that there could be a need to raid current funds. The current landowners of these landlocked parcels decided it was time to sell. When Evan received his letter, shortly after he talked with Pat Dermidoff (north 40) and with Finkbeiner (south 40). Dermidoff and Finkbeiner sent letters to all adjacent and some nearby property owners. Wayne suggested the possibility of a sale to Pebbles on the east side of the Dermidoff property. John discussed another landowner in the area has had a preliminary discussion with a representative of the City of Hancock regarding preserving their holdings as recreation property. Follow-up has been suggested by the City this summer. Crissy asked about the gorge. Jay noted that the gorge purchase discussion with Paul Tomasi is currently dead. Crissy encouraged working aggressively to pursue community-based property. Keith asked about the west side of the Finkbeiner property where the trail currently runs. John suggested finding a way to work with Paul Tomasi on this. John asked about the Pebbles

property west of the Dermidoff property. Evan indicated it is flat except for the steep drop on the west side down to M203. Evan went on to indicate that the Dermindoffs want these 40 acres to not be developed and placed in a conservation easement. Wayne pointed out that a conservation easement would tie our hands. Jay noted that Pat Toczydlowski at the Keweenaw Land Trust suggests a purchase without a conservation easement as this would create a protracted and more expensive process. Jason indicated that he is for the purchase and that we work out the details later. Crissy is supportive of the purchase for community use. Mark Klein indicated that he was in favor. Keith indicated that he supports the purchase as well. Wayne indicated that he was in favor of the purchase. Jay asked for a motion, indicating that he would recuse himself since he will be part of the loan. Mark Roberts moved that KNSC purchase the Dermidoff property and give Jay the authority for a \$20,000 purchase price plus closing costs. Crissy Gerhart seconded the motion. As part of the discussion on the motion, Mark Roberts indicated that Pat Toczydlowski believes \$20,000 would be a small amount to raise from the community. Crissy asked about convincing the buyer to sell to us. Evan responded that Finkbeiner is going with Paul Tomasi but Dermidoff prefers to sell to KNSC. A roll call vote was taken on the motion:

John Diebel: Aye

Mark Roberts: Aye

Mark Klein: Aye

Crissy Gerhart: Aye

Wayne Stordahl: Yes

Jay Green: Abstain

Keith Meyers: Aye

Jason Martin: Aye

7 ayes, 1 abstain, and Susan Stiffler not present, and none opposed, the motion carries.

**Portage Health Grant:** Jay summarized that Mark Klein had submitted a proposal to improve the Finney Creek and Lake Annie single track trails in Churning Rapids including some trail relocation. KNSC is the non-profit applicant. The grant request is for \$20,000 with a total

project cost of \$40,000. The additional \$20,000 would be an in-kind donation by Rock Solid. Jay suggested the vote authorizing the proposal in the minutes to recognize KNSC's interest and involvement in summer use. Mark Roberts indicated that he had walked it with Sue Ellen Kingsley, and she is supportive. The Keweenaw Land Trust supports it as well. Mark Klein moved that we approve the grant application submission. It was seconded by Jason Martin. A roll call vote was taken on the motion:

John Diebel: Aye

Jay Green: Yes

Mark Roberts: Yes

Wayne Stordahl: Yes

Mark Klein: Yes

Crissy Gerhart: Yes

Jason Martin: Yes

Keith Meyers: Yes

8 ayes, Susan Stiffler not present, and none opposed, the motion carries.

**UTV:** Jay indicated that the groomers are saying the Can Am Defender is showing wear and tear. Jay recommends that we move it from a 6-year to a 5-year cycle, but the money is not currently there. Mark Klein excused himself from the meeting due to work at 7:44 p.m. Jay discussed a couple of grant opportunities including the Portage Health Foundation Small Grant (\$3,000 maximum) and the Community Foundation of the U.P. (Escanaba) (\$1,500 maximum). The cost would be split as follows \$6,500 KNSC (noting \$4,500 available in the UTV reserve fund), \$6,500 from the City of Hancock, and \$5,000 in grants. It was noted that Colin believed the resale value of the UTV is at least \$10,000. John asked Crissy about the City's Recreation budget. He thought \$6,000 might be available in budgeted but unspent project funds. Crissy thought the budget was set. They will check on what funds might be available. Jay indicated that we should go forward with applications on the two grant opportunities and possibly with Besse as well. Crissy and Jay both think the City would likely come up with its portion of the funding. John Diebel moved that the board authorize the submission of grant proposals to the

Community Foundation of the U.P. and the Portage Health Foundation (Small Grants) toward the replacement of the Defender. Jay Green seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion:

John Diebel: Aye

Jay Green: Yes

Mark Roberts: Yes

Wayne Stordahl: Yes

Jason Martin: Yes

Crissy Gerhart: Yes

Keith Meyers: Yes

7 Ayes, Susan Stiffler and Mark Klein not present, and none opposed, the motion carries.

**FEMA:** No new information, but the person handling it is back to work after a prolonged absence.

**Annual Meeting:** There is uncertainty due to COVID-19. We will determine by email. It is currently scheduled for April 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Comments:** Wayne brought up the availability of the Portage Health Auxiliary Grant as a potential means to fund next year's Barnelopet. Jay said yes to put in a proposal. Jay moved that Wayne submit a proposal to the Portage Health Auxiliary for funding the Barnelopet. John Diebel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion:

John Diebel: Yes

Jay Green: Yes

Wayne Stordahl: Yes

Mark Roberts: Yes

Jason Martin: Yes

Crissy Gerhart: Yes

Keith Meyers: Yes

7 Ayes, Susan Stiffler and Mark Klein not present, and none opposed, the motion carries.

Mark Roberts noted that he had skied Churning Rapids today and it was awesome. Jay said the Michigan Tech dog trails were good as well and nicely groomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.