

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club Annual Meeting**  
**May 19, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Jay Green, John Diebel, Mark Roberts, Jason Martin, Crissy Gerhart, Wayne Stordahl, Mark Klein, and Keith Meyers. Absent: Susan Stiffler Guests: Emily Fiala, Henry Schmidt, Horst Schmidt, and Nate Laakonen.

The meeting was convened at about 7:05 p.m.

Jay welcomed the guests.

Jay read a statement regarding the Covid-19 postponement of the previously scheduled annual meeting and noted that Zoom meetings will continue as needed.

**Agenda:** Public Comments were moved ahead of the minutes.

**Public Comments:** Horst Schmidt noted that tomorrow the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Commission will be meeting and that this is an opportunity to have a voice in what the Department of Natural Resources does. He encouraged attendance and noted that numbers count. Jay offered others a chance to speak. Henry Schmidt thanked him for the opportunity to speak and asked about the status of the Swedetown Creek Gorge. Jay noted that this would be covered during the meeting.

**Minutes:** February 11 minutes: 1) The January 21 minutes were approved at this meeting. 2) Under the Treasurer's report in the middle after storage bins needs to be clarified to indicate fiberglass rods for the Ginzu. 3) On the third page on the gorge purchase, it was just John, not Jay and John. 4) On the side-by-side replacement, it was 2021 not 2022 for the scheduled replacement and the listing price was \$10,000 to \$15,000. Mark Roberts moved that acceptance of the February minutes as amended. John Diebel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. March 17 minutes: 1) On the land sale, half-way down, when Evan received his letter, shortly afterwards he talked with Pat Dermidoff on the north 40 and Finkbeiner on the south 40; 2) On the land purchase, page two, strike comment regarding Pebbles. 3) On land purchase, strike 501c(3) comment. Mark Roberts moved acceptance the March 17 minutes as amended. John Diebel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. May 5 minutes: Mark Klein noted that under snow bike grooming that it was Mark Roberts and not Mark Klein who made the motion. Jay moved acceptance of the May 5 minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Diebel highlighted the restatement of revenues for the year at about \$18,000, business sponsorships at \$6,485, and the Chain Drive estimated at \$2,500, but uncertain. Jay noted the revenue that had carried over from the grant for the New River Trail and that there is about a \$6,000 surplus this year with a \$30,000 surplus overall. We are still waiting on MTU's Multi-Pass check which should be about \$10,000. We will adopt a formal

budget later, but it will not change much from what we have here. It is an enviable position. Mark Roberts clarified that the new Portage Health Foundation grant is not included.

**Overview:** The New River Trail was completed and was quite successful. Jay discussed the flood impact on the bidding which resulted in the best bid at \$30,000. Cain Besse contacted us about the tractor which once acquired with the Besse Family Foundation grant allowed us to self-perform the work with Colin. There was an approximate \$12,000 out-of-pocket cost. With Crissy's help, we picked up another \$2,500 from the city with the bulldozer work performed by the city. On the land purchase, two 40-acre parcels became available. KNSC purchased the northern 40 and we are currently in fund raising mode. \$8,000 is pledged. We need \$20,000 plus \$1,000 in closing costs. We have until September to close but hope to do it by June or July. Hopefully, we will have full funding by then, so a loan is not needed. John Diebel showed the guests where the land is located. Jay noted High Point Trail off Brooks Road is being acquired by a bike friendly owner who looks to re-route to one side of property.

**Future:** Jay highlighted the New UTV side-by-side as we have issues with the current machine, and it has lots of hours. We have been on a 6-year rotation but moving to 5-year. Portage Health Foundation and the Community Foundation of the UP are grant opportunities. PHF has conditioned \$3,000 on \$1,5000 from the Community Foundation of the UP and \$7,000 from the city that KNSC would match. John noted that the current machine is being repaired and asked if anyone knows of someone looking for one.

On the Swedetown Creek Gorge, Jay noted the coordination with Mike Marcum at OHM. It was at \$300,000 in the last write-up. Unfortunately, it is currently stalled along with 3 to 4 other city projects. Jay discussed the meeting with Paul Tomasi who had been open to a sale. Paul contacted Ken Hodges and Ken apparently talked Paul out of it. We plan to talk with Ken. As a result, we are on hold regarding a purchase of the gorge. OHM did a survey and made the estimate. We cannot make any repairs as it would change the list, so our hands are tied until FEMA makes a decision. John noted that FEMA had completed five of seven steps then their program manager transferred. Going downstream, the plan is to repair the trail to the meadow, veer right and put a boardwalk through to the Dam and punch through. A two bridges by-pass would result in going downstream from the current Sisu bridge and constructing a new Sisu bridge with the middle bridge. This would add vistas and waterfalls to the trail but would create a tight turn at the bottom of Sisu Hill. FEMA is open to the re-route. Crissy talked about the boards recently put in place to make the meadow passable. Henry Schmidt indicated that this sounds like a great plan. John talked about the need to work with the whoever is chosen as a contractor about how to work around the big pine trees as the re-route would not be right on the existing bike trail in all places. Henry Schmidt asked about the meadow. John discussed the mucky area on the slope and then it becomes extremely steep. He noted that the EGLE encourages boardwalks and noted that we could even excavate the existing stream channel.

John commented on the additional work with gravel from Tomasi on the Old River Trail from the gate to the triangle and the new culverts as well as a new culvert on Sunset Trail. The Spring Creek area was also improved.

Jay noted that snow bike grooming was moving under our authority from Copper Harbor Trails. This has been handled on a reimbursement basis from donations to Copper Harbor Trails. The board has agreed to accept this funding and the snowmobile. We are currently in discussion with the city about titling. Mark Klein and Nate Laakonen will continue grooming and skiers can use these as well. John Diebel indicated that we are still waiting on the check. Mark Klein indicated that he would check into the check and noted that he has the title for the snowmobile.

**Multi-Pass:** The Keweenaw Trails Alliance is made up of four ski areas. MTU wanted to start charging for summer and did last year. MTU has now indicated that it does not want a separate biker pass. There will be a meeting tomorrow about only an annual pass. Chassell has been advised of our stance. There will be no change in fees.

**Calumet Theatre By-Laws:** they have a new set of non-profit By-Laws developed by Tammy Savoy that we might want to consider to better sync up with Michigan law. This would not involve significant changes.

**Visioning Committee:** still needs to meet

**Expectations Committee:** adopt after board review. This would include: assist with one event or work session; recruit one or more business sponsors; attend at least 6 of 9 board meetings and not miss 3 consecutive meetings. Jay will send these out.

**Board Elections:** All positions expire each year. Jay opened nominations. Jay nominated John Diebel, Wayne seconded. John accepted and then offered to re-elect the current slate plus Nate Laakonen. Nate indicated he would accept the nomination. Jay asked for further nominations. None were offered, so nominations were closed. There was unanimous approval of the slate, including: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Keith Meyers, Jason Martin, Crissy Gerhart, Susan Stiffler, Mark Klein, and Nate Laakonen.

**Next Meeting:** June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to address final approval of the land purchase

**Other:** Wayne noted seeing the rescue sleds at the DPW garage in the parking lot and noted that they should be placed under cover. Jay indicated that he would make contact. Crissy brought up the re-directing of trails for summer use and the need for directional arrows at the culvert at Hodges for those coming up from the Quincy Trail. Mowing should help too. Jay brought up the potential of becoming a 4-season club. Emily expressed appreciation for how well the trails have been maintained and the spring skiing this year, noting this is the best place for social distancing.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.