

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
September 15, 2020**

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Susan Stiffler, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Wayne Stordahl, Crissy Gerhart, and Keith Meyers

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

Agenda: Jay added: snow bike allotment; tri-fold maps; fall work/Make a Difference Day; and 60 acres for sale

Minutes: The June minutes look good to Jay. Wayne noted that \$2,800 was approved by the Hancock Recreation Committee on Hodges' driveway. Mark Roberts moved approval of the minutes. John Diebel provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's Report: End of the fiscal year. John asked if there were any questions. John noted a \$500 donation from Mike and Susanna Ausema. \$16,159 in checking after writing check for the Defender. There is approximately \$75,000 with checking and another \$11,000 to \$12,000 coming in. We will owe payment to Rock Solid. Vinyl on metal signs will be \$500 to \$600 to Industrial Graphics. Jay noted an end of the fiscal year surplus projected at \$31,300. Keith asked if a motion was required to accept this report. Jay noted that a motion was not required.

Land Purchase: The land purchase went through in late July. Jay indicated he needs to get with the Keweenaw Land Trust. Taxes are due in the next couple of days. Eric Rudman noted the 60 acres adjacent to the cemetery was for sale. This is Herrington Ridge property just west of Mud Lake. \$2,000/acre is what he is asking. We paid \$500/acre on the recent land purchase. John suggested the possibility of a conservation/DNR grant if Mud Lake is included. The discussion with the Keweenaw Land Trust will involve the tentative schedule for transfer to them. John indicated that he has received the documentation from the county.

Kiosk: Jay apologized to Susan since she had volunteered to be involved and he had subsequently met with John, Crissy and Wayne. McGann has done a sketch for Wayne. We will have twice the postable surface as before. This is just 4' x 8' now and will be two 4' x 4's and one 4' x 8' afterwards. No material estimate yet. Finlandia's design was for two 4' x 8'. That material estimate with no labor was \$3,000 to \$4,000. Two 4' x 8's would be within budget. Wayne noted that the price of treated lumber is up 300%. Discussed 4' x 4' wing walls and noted it would be nice to have a bike section with room for four posters. Crissy will send a picture of what is in place at DPW. Keith noted that lumber prices are expected to moderate by spring. Noting the options, Jay noted that we continue with the design and provide opinions then decide if we do it this fall. Crissy feels there are volunteers who could make this happen. Jay asked for opinions. October 24th is Make a Difference Day. There is \$7,500 in the City of Hancock's budget for the Kiosk according to John. Crissy noted how the new viewing station

was completed by Terry Kinzel's fraternity. Wayne indicated he will email the design to the board for comment. If approved, Wayne will get an estimate for materials. There was discussion about not having the drip line in your face and to match the chalet.

Side by Side: John indicated that he gave Houghton Power Sports a \$34,459.91 check today, in addition to our \$500 deposit. Payment includes a warranty extension for \$1,500. Jay reviewed the history of the purchase. John noted that he is waiting on a check from the Portage Health Foundation and he has been in communication with them. Cycle City in Escanaba has bought the old one. We will need to discuss the annual reserve fund amount for the future Defender. The new Defender delivers tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. to DPW and includes an LED light panel on top.

Multi-Pass: This has been finalized. You can buy it on Keweenaw Trails and it brings you to the MTU website. Passes will be sold at Hancock Bike and Down Wind Sports in Houghton. Went to the MTU site and had asked that it be clear on the MTU website that our pass is for winter use only and that we seek contributions for summer use. MTU's is a year-round pass. Mark Roberts could not recall what was committed to. Jay indicated he will get with Ashley about this. John noted that the new trail pass will punch out a date of expiration as the primary difference as MTU insists on an annual pass. Swedetown and we will likely charge for bikes in the future.

Fall Trail Work/Make a Difference Day: Last year \$4,500 went toward Colin and John Pekkala performing fall trail work. We will check with Colin on his availability since he now an assistant manager. John and Nate are currently mowing. Wayne brought up getting the trails ready for low snow grooming, particularly by Hodges and the Apostolic Church to address stumps and drainage. Jay noted that this location would be good for Make a Difference Day. John will mow it soon so we can see what is needed. Wayne noted the availability of the spare culvert we have paid for as something that could help with the Apostolic Church parking lot drainage. Jay asked about checking with Colin and Wayne said Colin agrees. John noted two other spots including the Dam Hill (200 feet from it) and from Tomasi going into the New River Trail (a low spot there). Jay will talk with Colin about his availability and let us know.

Snowmobile Allotment: Mark Klein noted that last year \$800 went from KNSC to Copper Harbor Trails. No survey was sent out this year. He recommends transferring the same amount internally this year. There is \$5,000 in the account right now, but we need to work toward snowmobile replacement. We need to work on transfer of the registration to the City of Hancock. Mark Klein noted that we have three years on the current snowmobile with a life of up to six or possibly eight years. Mark noted that it is in good shape for three years. Keith discussed the need for integrating this and Jay indicated that he was willing to incorporate it as Nordic biking. John noted that we have \$5,325. We can move a large portion of this into the reserve fund. John moved that we allocate \$800 from last year's revenue toward snowmobile grooming. Wayne provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously. Mark Klein asked about ownership. Jay asked where Mark has the snowmobile. Mark indicated that it is on his property. John indicated that he would discuss this with Mary Babcock. Four to five volunteers do the work. Volunteers would need to be signed with the City of Hancock. One of

the snowmobiles is registered with Copper Harbor Trails and one is unregistered. It was purchased with Chain Drive money from a private owner for \$1,800 four to five years ago.

Trifold: No changes on the maps except dates. Sponsors need commitments. Sponsorships are \$150 and \$300. \$300 gets a bigger logo on the trifold as well as the sponsors website link on our website. We want to get this to the printer by mid-October. Jay asked that board members contact who you talked to last year and to send out to everybody to avoid duplication. Amounts are the same as last year. We will add Hancock Bike as an outlet for passes. Keep the Besse Foundation on there as well. Jay indicated we should authorize a figure. John indicated that it was \$336 for 550 maps with the discount provided by the Print Shop. Wayne asked about the pass costs. Jay and John noted that they are the same as last year. John indicated that the quantity could be cut to 500 maps. Wayne asked to try and make the map bigger. Susan and John noted that sponsors crowded it.

Hodges' Driveway: Wayne indicated that it is done and was under budget. We still need to put up the summer use signs. Crissy noted that it is a nice trail and that we have extra arrow signs that we could use there. Crissy asked who owns St. Urho's Loop. John noted that Superior Sand & Gravel does. There was discussion of the future path of SS&G and it was agreed that this would not be an issue during our lifetimes. It was noted that Hodges was accommodating, and he acknowledged that the problem has been with snowmobilers. Hodges also indicated that he is not going to log this fall or winter, maybe next summer as log prices are low right now.

New Bike Trail: Mark Klein indicated that Rock Solid started work two weeks ago. The Lake Annie segment has been resurfaced with berm and roller features. Yesterday they started work on Finni Creek which involves a substantial re-route. Sue Ellen is good with the route. The Lake Annie segment is now open. Jay indicated that he needs a knowledgeable Rock Solid person to advise on the potential ski trail on the two-bridges by-pass. Mark noted that Rock Solid is the largest trail construction company in the world with over 70 employees under Aaron Rogers. Jay is interested in their view based on how steep it is and how they would make it wider. Jay asked Mark to see what he can coordinate with Rock Solid on if it would be constructable. We have met with Michael Babcock who has taken photos and videos on the project for the Portage Health Foundation.

Vision Committee: Has not met.

Board Expectations Committee: Mark Roberts thought we were done with it. Jay will send it around for next meeting.

Evan Kane's Trees: Nate met with Evan. John and Nate did a Zoom meeting and looked at maps. They concluded it was a mystery. The trees were bigger than we thought and we were probably not involved. There is nothing Evan wanted us to change regarding mowing or grooming.

Superior Sand & Gravel: On Jay's to-do list.

FEMA: John indicated he had spoken to Mary Babcock. Michael Markam at OHM touched base indicating that the Swedetown Creek Gorge was the only thing not funded yet. It has gone into another review, but that is a good thing. OHM is pushing for this fall so field work can be done this fall, design work this winter, bidding in the spring, with construction completed next summer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom

Final Comments: John noted that Deb Mann is coordinating students for Make a Difference Day and he will talk with her. Crissy asked if the Chalet can be rented for parties/meetings. Get with Mary Babcock. There is a \$50 rental fee. Look at Nara. It can be reserved but you cannot keep the public out. John noted the improvements to the toilets at the Chalet. Susan will be sending around a spreadsheet on sponsors.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.