

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club  
Board Meeting  
October 13, 2020**

**Attendance:** Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Susan Stiffler, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Wayne Stordahl, Crissy Gerhart, and Keith Meyers. No Absences.

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

**Agenda:** Make a Difference Day was added under Fall Trail Work. Mark Klein asked that we revisit the snowmobile ownership.

**Minutes:** Jay noted the following: under Land Purchase on the second line, it should indicate that Eric Rudman noted the acreage was for sale; under Kiosk on the second line, it should indicate John, Crissy and Wayne; under Kiosk at the end of the same line, it should indicate that we will have twice the postable space as before as it is 4' x 8' now and will be two 4' x 4's and one 4' x 8' afterwards; under Kiosk with regard to the estimate, this estimate is a materials estimate with no labor included; under Multi-Pass on the second line, the website is the MTU website; under Multi-Pass at the end of the second line, Jay asked that it be clear that this is on the MTU website; under FEMA on the third page, the spelling is Markam, not Marcum; under FEMA on the fourth page last sentence, add so field work can be done this fall, design work this winter, bidding this spring, with construction completed next summer and make sure it is clear that "they" is OHM. John noted under the Treasurer report that Ausmus is not the correct spelling and that it should be Ausema. Wayne verified the correct spelling. John moved that the minutes be approved with these corrections. Mark Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** John noted a decrease on the value of the old Can Am of \$5,700. There is currently about \$81,000 between checking and savings. \$14 in credit card liability. The 2020 Defender has been added to assets. We have received \$3,000 from the Portage Health Foundation, \$1,500 from the UP Sustainable Forest and Wildlife Fund, and \$8,750 from the City of Hancock. John noted that he had walked the Finni Creek Trail today and it looks nice. John expects that Rock Solid will be looking for a check for \$20,000. Mark Klein indicated that Rock Solid finished work last Friday. Other items: revenue from sponsors, including Superior National; need to finalize commitments in order to print the map; Mike and Sue Ausema \$500 donation; one annual pass has come in; processed a \$35.10 refund; Mark Klein and John have exchanged emails regarding the \$800 annual allocation...John noted he is holding it as an encumbrance and will reduce as expenses are submitted, treating it as a discretionary fund at Mark Klein's request; the corporate annual report has been filed; directional signage of \$480 will come from the community development funds from the City of Hancock; mower expenses have been paid, including \$230 in welding at Abe's to repair a cracked deck and exhaust pipe, starting seems to be the only issue and Colin had suggested the trimmer head which has been done; the City of Hancock paid Colin \$275 directly for the Hodges project; and the estimated surplus will

be about \$45,000 compared to \$31,319 last year. Jay indicated that he would increase reserves in the new budget. John indicated that he has put in \$2,000 for fall brushing, but it is likely that Colin will not be available. John noted that we have received the Defender and the track pods. Jason moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Mark Klein seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval of the motion.

**Groomer:** John and Jay did a Zoom meeting with Mary Babcock. John Pekkala is still available. Colin Pekkala is now an assistant manager at Abe's and is not sure about his availability. As a result, we are going to need to consider hiring a back-up. Arlyn had noted there has been an issue with getting good help. We have talked with Craig Hughes at Swedetown and they are looking for one by word of mouth. We discussed the amount of pay and the possibility of moving John Pekkala to \$12/hour. John Diebel noted that Jim Mease has retired from MTU (former groomer). The hours would be between 30 and 40 per week. Susan indicated that she would check with the head groomer at MTU. Keith suggested Aaron Maki from Chassell who works at Down Wind. John indicated his desire to have grooming completed by 11 a.m. There was discussion about finding out if the Swedetown groomer is available.

**Kiosk:** Wayne noted that Jay still needs to talk with the pole guy. There have been two revisions. The roof overhang has been solved. Have four 4' x 4' posting areas and have found a vinyl siding that matches the Chalet. A bike station will be placed on the left and a pay pipe on the right. It will be located parallel to the fence and open toward the parking lot. The materials cost will be \$3,000, \$400 for the holes, labor is estimated at \$3,000 for a total estimate of \$6,400 which is within the grant. McGann is saying wait for spring for better materials cost as well as availability of material. It is suggested that we hang a sheet of plywood on the fence this winter. Weather resistant windows were discussed, but we need a firm price. This will get us close to the \$7,500 budget. Wayne asked the board how they feel about the temporary sign. Jay indicated that he feels it is what we need to do. Wayne discussed the layout for the completed Kiosk (information, maps, etc.). Jay asked when we want to put it out for bid, noting that we need to figure out when. He suggested that maybe we bid labor first and material later.

**MTU Nordic Passes:** Ski Club (Mike Abbott and Blair Orr contacts) has provided members a multi-pass for the other three areas and we get \$10 on each pass. John moved that we continue the discount program. Mark Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Fall Trail Work:** For Make a Difference Day, John indicated that Wayne and Colin are looking at a drainage project near the Apostolic Church. Deb Mann at MTU has been notified. We will need to provide her a number and we will need tools. Wayne indicated that we should have them pull buckthorn as well. John feels this is worthwhile as it is bad for mowing, but work gloves will be needed. Jay suggested contacting the Keweenaw Invasive Services Management Association (KISMA) and check with MTU Forestry. Jill Fisher at the Keweenaw Land Trust will know who to contact. Jay indicated that we could buy gloves. John asked about buying hand tools and Jay gave his okay. On other fall trail work, we can see how much John Pekkala can do. Weed whacking is needed. Jay asked about having a volunteer day. Nate noted that the two Hondas are working well and that the third (Echo) runs. John indicated that he has had two good days of mowing (Meadow and Vista). Outback needed to be cut to connect with Mud Lake

but could get that in one day. The Spring Creek re-route, the length in the gorge from Sidewinder to Dam Hill, Mud Lake, and the lower part of Diagonal all need to be addressed. John suggested doing as a series of dates. Jay will check with John Pekkala first and throw it up on Keweenaw Trails, but will not set dates yet. On the single-tracks, Nate will send an email out to the adopters to do a fall blow to extend the season which will also help them dry out.

**Business Sponsors:** College Vision (R & M Eyecare PC dba Vision Clinic) \$300; Down Wind \$300; Finlandia no; Keweenaw Automotive \$300; McGann \$300; Superior National Bank \$300; Abe's Supply \$300; Copper Country Dentistry \$150; Edward Jones ?; Frank A. Douglass \$300; Keweenaw Co-op – Mark Klein will contact; Northland Vet Clinic – Susan left information; Tervo Agency – Susan left letter; Econo Food \$150; Cross Country Sports – Jason will contact; Erickson \$300; Martin Custom Collision \$300; The Print Shop – will provide a discount; Ship and Shop \$300; Roger Helman \$300; Wickley – Keith has left message, but will follow up; Swifts ?; Hancock Bike Shop \$300.

**Tri-fold Maps:** waiting on sponsors. Change of name on Finni Creek may have to wait due to software modification.

**Hodges Drive Crossing:** Jay asked if there was a sign left to be put up. Wayne said it was in place. Crissy noted that the bike signs are not installed yet as they need three posts. 4 x 4's available and in place. Jay indicated that it is up to Crissy about putting them up. John offered to help Crissy.

**Bike Trail:** We received the \$20,000 grant from the Portage Health Foundation. Mark Klein reiterated that Rock Solid finished on Friday. 28 working days with two guys. \$40,000 of work with \$20,000 from the grant and \$20,000 of in-kind from Rock Solid. The Finni Creek re-route is nice with a mellower grade. The drainage was fixed on the old trail. John ask how they got the excavator in (over the bridge). Signage will be added so it is clear it is multi-use. Bikers will need to yield to hikers.

**Vision Committee:** On Jay's to do list.

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

**Website:** Talked to the webmaster Nathan Lyle. We need rotation of sponsors. Three options: as is with modification of logos to fit space with snow background or list of sponsors; or total re-design (25% discount possible), but we may want to wait until we are a four season organization; or go with Page Builder so it is easier for us to edit (easier than WordPress). Susan pointed out that it is important for the sponsors to be at the top (maybe an hour of work). Crissy asked about getting sponsors on the Kiosks. Jay suggested as a poster like in the Chalet. During Jay and John's discussion with Mary Babcock, she indicated that the Chalet will not be open this year. Redesign of the business sponsor banner was discussed at a cost of up to \$300. Jay will get with Nathan. John moved exploring this with Nate with authorization not to exceed \$300. Keith provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously. John and Susan will get with Nate on Page Builder. Crissy expressed her opinion that we do a redesign of the website now. Mark Roberts indicated wanting to wait until we have done the front-end work.

**Calendar:** Jay indicated that we move ahead with the candle luminary ski without the availability of the Chalet. Retro Ski date will need to be set. Glide N Gorge will be problematic assuming a continuation of Covid-19. Susan brought up the possibility of doing it as an event without food, possibly as a virtual event. The grant request is in for Barnelopet. We may not hold it this year and apply the grant to next year. Let us think about this ahead of the next meeting, possibly as a family free ski day. The Luminary Ski will be on December 26<sup>th</sup>. On the Retro Ski, Jay will check other events. Maybe hold it in late February.

**Trail Etiquette:** Nate brought up order of right-of-way. High speed bikers have created this concern. Need signs at the top so it is clear they need to yield to hikers in the summer. Need signage at all three trailheads. Separate summer and winter activities. Cover not riding/snowshoeing on tracks.

**Stockbroker:** Donation of gains. Talked with Keweenaw Land Trust and they have that set up and get donations. Jay asked about getting with our broker sponsor Steve Zutter to set up through Edward Jones.

**FEMA:** John indicated that there was nothing new. Mary Babcock indicated that Michael Markam with OHM is getting more aggressive. All of Hancock's other projects are approved. The deadline to complete projects is late next summer.

**Snowmobiles:** John and Jay talked with Mary Babcock and she is looking at insurance.

**Four Seasons Club:** Nate is willing to take the lead. This would involve re-chartering and getting approval from the IRS for 501c(3). Cynthia McDonald did it for Swedetown. Will need to look at the logo, name, etc. We may want to start out by looking at the Swedetown charter. Nate indicated that he would reach out to Cynthia and report back but needs her contact information.

**Next Meeting:** November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.