

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club  
Board Meeting  
December 8, 2020**

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

Jay convened the meeting on Zoom at 7:08 p.m.

**Agenda:** No changes.

**Minutes:** Keith noted changes to the November 10 minutes brought to his attention by Jay Green and John Diebel. No other changes were recommended. Wayne moved approval of the minutes with a second by Mark Roberts. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Barb Wheeler has returned to the area and is available for whatever needs to be accomplished. Barb noted that she has been out hiking the trails looking for chaga and noted liking the beaver dams on Swedetown Creek. Jay welcomed her back.

**Treasurer's Report:** John noted that we have over \$95,000 in checking and savings. \$20,000 of this will be going to Rock Solid. The Dermidoff 40 is now in assets per Mark Roberts recommendation. Sponsors have been sending in checks. Wickley is the only one that is outstanding. \$275 in donations and a couple of ski passes. In the budget, \$17,000 in pass revenue is projected and \$4,500 in operations and maintenance. This increases the surplus by \$10,000. Crissy moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report with a second from Mark Roberts. Acceptance of the report was approved unanimously.

**Candle Luminary Ski:** Concern about having an appropriate amount of snow was discussed as there are only two days of snow showers projected between now and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Walking and bike riding were confirmed as the options in the event we do not have the snow. Mark Klein indicated that people be interested in getting out. Jay asked if bags have been ordered. Mark Roberts says the batteries and LEDs are good. John indicated he will order the bags. The Chalet is closed. We will meet to set things up at 3:00 p.m. at the Chalet and load sleds to distribute them on the trails between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Volunteers: Jay, Mark Roberts, John, Barb, Keith, and Julie. John noted that it would be good to have a second portalette since the Chalet is closed. John will get with the media. Keith will add the event to the Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar. Jay will get it added to Keweenaw Trails website.

**Groomer:** We still need one. Two have been interviewed that are not going to work out. Colin and Jay will be meeting another candidate on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Colin's availability is limited, but he might be able to roll or track late if necessary.

**Kiosk:** On hold. There was discussion of the old map from the 1980s that was found when taking the old one apart that is now on the fence.

**Fall Trail Work:** Sidewinder was done by Colin. The main trail between Dam Hill and Sidewinder is all that is left, but there is minimal work that needs to be done. Wayne noted that four worked for two hours at Hodges and got in two pipes and it is drying the area.

**Business Sponsors:** Cross Country Sports is in. Studio 13 has provided \$150 cash and has offered to do design work as in-kind. Crissy suggested having them work on a four-season logo. Finlandia will not be a sponsor this year due to Covid. There will be a new contact there.

**Quad-Fold Maps:** The maps are in production. Only changes dates of closure and Finni Creek spelling. 40 copies of trail map for boxes on trails. Etiquette signs for Chalet and Tomasi, dogs okay, no walking. Jay will talk to Marc Norton about remapping of the system. Nate asked about having both a summer and winter map.

**Hodges Drive:** Two 4" or 3" pipes drying the area behind the Apostolic Church. Arrows up for bikers put up by John and Crissy.

**Bike Trail:** Mark Klein reported that Rock Solid did hand work a couple of weeks ago. They are still working on getting out the \$20,000 invoice. We have gotten good feedback on the Finni Creek re-route.

**Vision Committee:** Nothing yet.

**Rescue Sleds:** Rescueboggen and Snowbulance. Jay cleaned the Snowbulance and put tarps over both. They are ready to go.

**Website:** Jay wants to get with Susan by phone or email. Keith mentioned his cross-promotion efforts on social media.

**Calendar:** Retro Ski will be on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Coordination of dates with Swedetown. Maybe have board meetings the first Tuesday as an option in February. Wayne expressed Barnelopet coordination concern. Volunteers are the challenge for the Barnelopet. We will need get that done in January. With no objections, the next three board meetings will be on January 5<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Susan will change these on the calendar. Susan will check the registration form.

**Trail Etiquette:** Nate reported that the signs are up on the new trails. Terry Kinzel thanked Nate at work. Barb asked if skiers could go on groomed bike trails to which the answer is yes.

**Four Seasons Club:** Nate noted that he had read the Hancock 5-year Recreation Plan and asked if we could leverage that and if resources would be available. John noted a hearing coming up in the next two weeks and indicated that he was not aware of what would prohibit it. It would be good to get it on their radar and John encouraged Nate to attend. Crissy encouraged Nate to come to the Recreation Committee as well. Increased mountain biking would be something to indicate and submit letters to the Council. Nate noted that Maasto Hiihto and Churning Rapids are referenced in the plan and that he will plan to attend. Jay suggested alluding to the shift to a four-season focus. John noted bringing up the Portage Health Foundation grant. Crissy

discussed easements which led to a discussion of liability on easements. Jay discussed liability umbrella. Keith mentioned Tim (TJ) Palosaari Jr. coming to the area from Columbus, Ohio where he had been involved with the development of the mountain biking community. Keith will forward TJ's contact information to Nate.

**Stockbroker:** John and Jay met with Steve Zutter to start the account. Mark Roberts noted that he has signed.

**FEMA:** At DDA Zoom meeting, John talked with Mary Babcock about clarification on stage of approval. Mary suggested the City could get it surveyed and FEMA said fine. The project is in good standing but not across the finish line. They have surveyed the re-route and on the specific location of the former bridges.

**60 Acres:** Nothing new. Jay will be getting with Matt. John, Jay, and Will Lytle talked. The Council is interested in preserving it. Potential pursuit of an MNDR Trust Fund grant is focused on the Lahti property along the canal. Swedetown Creek is in the Recreation Plan.

**Portable Toilets:** \$75 through A-1 instead of \$100/month with Superior. Christensen Road and Tomasi are in place starting with service every two weeks. Notify John if we need to accelerate.

**Budget:** Jay emailed it out. Discussed assumptions: kept sponsors about the same; kept daily passes the same. In reviewing specifics: \$29,000 in revenue; increased the reserve fund; \$35,000 UTV (5-year cycle); \$20,000 ATV (6-year cycle); \$1,000 inflation boost on other items; reduced operations and maintenance with brushing dropped; increased the groomer bonus from \$2,500 to \$3,000. The carryover surplus exceeds \$30,000. At the end of the season, we should do an actual versus budget comparison. Nate noted the snowmobile and whether it should be added to the budget. Mark Klein has the title, but it is still in Copper Harbor Trails' name. We need to get with Mary Babcock on this. Mark Klein asked how much is the second ATV used? Jay was not sure. The Kodiak has a lot less hours. It is used for track setting due to its power and maneuverability. Mark Klein suggested using it for back-up purposes and replace the back-up ATV with a snowmobile so it can pull double-duty with the bike trails.

Susan noted that she went to the website and everything is updated.

The next meeting will be on January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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