

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
July 13, 2021**

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

Jay was absent early in the meeting, so Mark Roberts called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:09 p.m. No guests were present.

Agenda: Wayne added the Replacement of the Barnelopet banner.

Minutes: Crissy noted that it was Wayne who abstained and not her on one of the votes at the June 1st meeting. It was clarified that Terry Kinzel did not have his property logged this summer due to low prices. John moved approval of the minutes as amended and Wayne provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: John noted that there were no big changes from June. He noted that there is \$98,217 in the bank. We received a \$150 donation from the Ski Tigers. There is \$170 in PayPal from two more annual passes and chain drive passes. \$3,188 in revenue and about \$2,000 in expenses. \$40,511 is left to be allocated after the building fund addition. Last year we had about \$21,000 in passes. This year was about \$24,000 in passes. Wayne moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Mark Klein provided the second. The motion was approved by all except Jason who was considered to have abstained due to stepping away from the meeting.

Keweenaw Trails Alliance Meeting: The meeting took place last Thursday at the SDC. More pass sales through MTU. Given the issues faced by Copper Harbor, liability was discussed. Lori Hauswirth discussion is coming up. The Dog Park was discussed and the crowd funding taking place. Swedetown will be raising its rates this year. We will need to have a resolution on our rates for MTU. Wayne suggested that we not raise our rates. John indicated that given our current working capital that we should defer on an increase. John moved that we keep membership rates the same: \$60/individual; \$80/family; \$5/day pass per person. Nate asked if there is a separate snow bike pass. Mark Klein said it is the same. Jason seconded the motion. Crissy suggested a \$1 increase to address expected insurance costs. John noted that Swedetown is covering its board for \$2,500/year and that we do not change the rates for now. Wayne voiced his agreement with John's recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

FEMA: Paul Tomasi has emailed Mary Babcock that he is on board. The Meadow By-Pass is okay with him. He squelched moving the Sisu Bridge downstream. The Two-Bridge By-Pass will not be happening. This will result in replacing the Middle Bridge and the Guard Bridge. OHM will now have to go to FEMA on the Meadow By-Pass. OHM is proceeding with the Sisu Bridge design. The former Middle Bridge is a fit. It is fairly certain that nothing will take place this summer.

Vision Committee: No Report

Website: No Report.

4 Season Club: Nate noted there was nothing specific to report. There was discussion of the Copper Harbor Trails and the gross negligence standard. Nate asked about private landowners and coverage under their insurance. Mark Klein asked for clarification about whether he is listed as insured as he has no winter activity. There was discussion about the Recreational Use Act and the 2017 changes and whether we lose safe harbor if we charge a membership. Keith discussed the Chassell Township Recreation Committee approval process for covering landowners with liability coverage. John confirmed that this is the direction Hancock is looking at. John stated he will provide Nate and Mark Klein information on the Lori Hauswirth meeting.

Dogs: Keith asked about the MTU survey and pointed out the new signage on the Tolkien Trails. John discussed the crowd funding taking place for the dog park and that MEDC has approved up to \$20,000 in potential match. Hancock has a \$43,000 quote for an 8' fence. Keith suggested checking with Dan Palosaari on a Baraga vendor. Nate emphasized the need to move dogs from the trails in the winter to the dog park area.

Foot Traffic: Closely related to dogs as many are walking dogs. Crissy noted that this is also a summer problem. We need to mark where we want people to walk. Mark Roberts agreed. Mark Klein asked about the BCT signs. John noted that Wayne put those up. Mark Klein suggested getting photos of other trail signs and determine if that is what we want. Nate suggested getting with Terry and Sue Ellen on this to see if they are on board. Crissy said Sue Ellen reacted favorably to signage. Nate asked if this extended to not walking on groomed trails. Mark Klein indicated that he did not think this would be an issue. Mark Klein went on to say that we should put up better signage to make this clearer. Wayne noted that there was a trail committee. Look back at what they came up with. Wayne indicated that he would investigate. It was agreed that this would be a good starting point.

Kiosk: CCISD will build it for us. We will get the lumber locally and they will start 2 to 3 weeks into the school year and have it ready for the ski season. Crissy talked to Mary Babcock and the City would like to review and approve. John indicated that he has a bid package that he can provide to Mary. Wayne indicated that he would stay in touch with the CCISD.

Chain Drive: Nate provided an overview of the event which took place on June 19th. It was a success with 110 registered. There were four blocks of time slots with short, medium, and long courses. \$2,500 in donations were raised. Expenses were \$1,500 and \$2,000. There was a \$2,500 sponsorship from the Portage Health Foundation. Feedback was positive, particularly on the social aspect of the event. The weather was good and there were no injuries. A couple of people said the trails were hard. \$330 went to Swedetown for the use of their trails. It took between 8 and 13 hours on the long course. John noted the \$1,170 residual Chain Drive money came from Copper Harbor Trails. Nate clarified that it came from Red Jacket in 2019. Crissy asked about volunteers. Nate noted 20 to 25 were involved in trail preparation. The event itself was 6. Crissy acknowledged the nice job on the event.

Summer Work: Blue Lake to rip up Trail 2. Jill has looked at the buckthorn, but John has not talked to her yet. Wayne pointed out that getting the trail addressed is key to an early start. Get

it dealt with and deal with the buckthorn later. Crissy agreed. Crissy indicated that walkers feel threatened by 4 wheelers. Signage is needed at the church and dog park. With regard to a new Hancock employee, Susan provided Jay a name and he declined applying. Right now, it's just Colin and John Pekkala and Mark Roberts. The Hancock High School cross country team is to do a work bee on the St. Urho Loop. Smoothing and water bars. This will need tractor help. Mark Roberts suggested putting out a call for volunteers. The tractor is currently in the bus garage.

Barneloped Banner: Wayne noted that wind destroyed the former banner. He has a quote from the Print Shop for a 41" x 8' banner at \$248 which would include the new city logo. Wayne moved that we authorize the Print Shop to produce the new banner. Jay seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget: Deferred

40 Acres: We have applied for tax-exempt status, and this will be considered by the Board of Review next Tuesday. It went to the Supervisor and the Assessor. It appears that all the boxes are checked. On the Mud Lake property, a handwritten note has been sent to Matt that we are still interested. Nated noted it is on Craig's List again. John noted that the Keweenaw Land trust was helpful with putting together a memo on other tax-exempt parcels.

Jay noted that Craig Hughes (Swedetown) is taking a greater interest in our meetings and would like to attend. Jay decided to go back to 3rd Tuesday meetings. Jay will also be getting with the Houghton County Road Commission on the placement of signage on M-203.

Our next meeting will be August 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Crissy commented on the monarch butterfly activity on St. Urho from a walking trail perspective. Jay noted the Miriam Pickens poster on butterflies at Maasto Hiihto.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.