

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
October 19, 2021**

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

Jay convened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Agenda: Jay added Portage Health Foundation and Calendar of Events

Minutes: Mark Roberts noted a typo where DPS should have been GPS. Mark Roberts moved the approval of the minutes with that amendment. Jay seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Groomer: John noted John Pekkala's installation of a large culvert behind the Apostolic Church with his and Wayne's assistance. John indicated that he checked during the recent rain. The small culvert was being overrun, but he cut a diversion channel to the new culvert. The 4 x 4 posts were installed on Tomasi Road for more signage and the bootleg entry is now marked.

Treasurer's Report: Annual report has been submitted on October 1 to the state with \$20. Recent expenses include the no motorized vehicle signs and no ATV signs for the St. Urho Trail. These still need to be installed. There was a \$138 mower repair during the summer as well as grass seed expense for the culvert project. John noted a certified IRS correspondence indicating we had not filed our taxes. John responded saying we had and sent the response by certified mail. Charging a lot at McGann's for the kiosk (toward the \$2,500) and will be submitting for reimbursement. Approximately \$95,000 in the bank. Jay moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Mark Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

FEMA: John got with Michael Markham. On October 1, a revision of the scope of work on the meadow was submitted to FEMA. Everyone is comfortable that Paul Tomasi is okay with it. A new person is now in charge of the Gorge project at FEMA. 50% of the bid package work is done and should be 100% by January.

Vision: No report

Website: We will only be selling memberships and not passes so that needs to be posted. Swedetown is doing the same thing.

4 Seasons: No report with Nate's absence.

Signs/Maps: Dean Woodbeck and Dave Bach did extensive GPSing of the intersections and produced schemes for signage. Dean noted that signs will be in place for the ski season and then

focus on re-signing the whole system. Sixty-five intersections each for \$130. Dave has ideas but no recommendation yet. Still deciding between numbers versus trail names. Talked with Marc Norton at Copper Island Printing who is doing the background for the new maps. Dean posed the question, should we try to do it for the ski season or shoot for biking season? John noted that the details of Finni Creek would be the only change and maybe Jimmy Dean. Mark Klein noted that the change in route is small, and the end points are the same. Jay indicated to go with the map we have so we do not have to push Marc and going on to note that the gorge is still blocked off as closed as is the route by the cemetery. It would be great if we can get this completed by the next biking season. John discussed printing the new map at the Print Shop. Dean noted that they may alter trail names and indicated that he and Dave are documenting all their questions. Jay thanked Dean for their work. Jay noted the need to re-do signs to reflect memberships and not passes as well as signage on dogs and foot traffic. Jay asked for volunteers to look at signs and make a proposal. Dean volunteered to do that.

Kiosk: Wayne indicated that the roof is on, and the walls are in place. The painting of the exposed wood is next. It will be ready by the end of the month. We will need to get a backhoe in there to replant the pay post. Poster holders with Plexiglas doors with ability to lock will need to be added as this is not something the ISD can do. There is plenty of room for signage. John will coordinate with the ISD on the next steps. Wayne indicated that we need to keep the tractor out until the kiosk is in.

Fall Work: Five guys from Finlandia University are coming to help. Need to weed whack Spring Creek and Diagonal. John thinks if they start by 9, they will be done by noon. John said there is not that much to be done and 2 hours should do it. Walk in from High Pointe. Mark Klein volunteered to coordinate with John. It was noted that Sidewinder and Mud Lake need weed whacking.

Closed Session: In at 7:47 and out at 7:48.

Budget: \$4,000 for fall work.

Chalet: Discussed previous repair and painting. Deb Mann had asked what do we want to return to the walls and where? Need poster with all the sponsors. Jay asked if the City is going to allow us to open this year.

Free Skiing: There was discussion of the Michigan Recreation Law. The city has indemnified us, but we are exempt from liability unless there is gross negligence. Jay proposes not having passes and going to memberships to meet the spirit of the law. This would require changes on all locations within the websites/social media and the pay posts noting donations appreciated to maintain trails. Jay moved we have free skiing from now on with memberships with a price schedule. Mark Roberts seconded the motion. Wayne asked if we are not charging, why provide them a tag? This way we know who pays. Swedetown and Chassell are both on board with this. MTU is not as they are self-insured. There was also discussion about walking on ski trails being prohibited during the ski season. The motion was passed unanimously.

Portage Health Foundation: Giving Tuesday – Michael Babcock with PHF notified John. The application is simple, what would you use the money for and how would you solicit donations. We discussed improving signage and replacing grooming equipment. We would solicit based on our email lists and others supporting the club. Jay submitted it to meet today's deadline.

Calendar: Candle Luminary Ski will be on Sunday, December 26, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. Barnelopet will be on Sunday, February 13, 2022, with registration from noon until 1 p.m. The Milwaukee Skiers will be here New Year's weekend. We will discuss the availability of the Chalet for them with Mary Babcock. The Retro Ski will be in February, possibly on the 20th or 19th. The Glide-N-Gorge will be on March 5th to line up with Copper Dog weekend. John asked about biking events. Mark Klein indicated that there were none that he is aware of and went on to note that he will be grooming bike trails. Heikinpaiva Parade and Barkell Elementary were also noted with Jay expressing appreciation to Wayne for doing the latter.

Sponsors: \$300 bigger logo with two ski memberships. \$150 smaller logo and one membership. Need to contact current sponsors asking them to re-up. John will make a list.

Liability: Jay indicated that he needs to get with Mark Hannula about a board policy and the overall policy as well as getting his take on biking. Wayne asked about getting bids.

Grooming: The Pekkalas will operate like last year. Last year's groomer (Kevin Sommers) wants to come back, but he is trying to find a place to rent. Ryan Hope who once groomed is back in the area at Mercy Ambulance and his wife is at the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Mark Klein indicated that Ryan is now with Med Flight. Wolf Meingast is interested in grooming as a fill-in.

John noted issues with the two Echos. He brought them to Abe's but has not heard back from Colin. John asked if we should get two more Echo powerheads. Mark Klein indicated that he has a walk behind for Saturday. Jay indicated that we should have four that work and indicated that John should replace any that do not work and recommended by motion that we authorize John to get at least one if needed. Jason Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mark Klein brought up the mini excavator from the Copper Harbor Trails Club. Mark Klein believes he and Nate could keep it busy on single-track improvements. Jay noted that the club would be willing to own it and will discuss this with Mary Babcock. Mark Klein noted many uses for it including ditching and side hills. Jay asked Mark Klein about the title for the snowmobile. Mark Klein indicated that he needs to get that to the city. Jay noted that we need to resolve if the City will take it and he will discuss this with Mary Babcock.

The next meeting will be on November 16th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.