

**Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club
Board Meeting
January 18, 2022**

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

Jay convened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Agenda: No Changes

Minutes: Jay indicated Keith should strike “covered now” under 4-Seasons. Wayne moved approval of the December minutes with the change. John seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers Report: No groomers were present to report.

Treasurer’s Report: John indicated there is \$124,494 between checking and savings. The Portage Health Foundation did a proportional match on Giving Tuesday which was 45%. We received \$13,053 in donations and \$5,900 in match. A few more business sponsorships came in. 5th & Elm and Douglass Agency came through Giving Tuesday. There was a Klugness Family donation of \$3,000. Pass sales are slightly behind last year. Recent expenses include the new drag for snow biking, the Barnelopet, and the Luminary Ski. The maps came to \$368 after the discount from the Print Shop. The Building Fund has a \$69,000 balance. Jay indicated it is less than that due to the budget. Mark Roberts moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Jason seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Luminary Ski: There was a good turnout, although not as strong as last year. The set up went smoothly. \$40 in donations were received. The trail was icy at first, but there were a lot of walkers that helped improve the skiing conditions.

Milwaukee Nordic Skiers: They paid for twenty-one skiers at \$5 each. We made \$300 on the donated food for a total of \$450. The skiing conditions were good. Two may have been shorted on food.

FEMA: Nothing new to report.

Vision Committee: No report.

4-Season Club: Dean Woodbeck indicated that we will need to change our articles of incorporation with the state and submit \$20. This would include one change under purpose “help provide trails for non-motorized activities.” All the IRS requires is that they be informed. A new letter of 501c(3) approval will have to be issued if we change the name. We would have to

communicate with members with a 10-day notice. A majority vote would be required. Jay indicated that we could do this at our annual meeting in April. John commented positively on Dean's thorough job reviewing the matter. Jay feels we should discuss this in February if not tonight.

Signs and Maps: The Portage Health Foundation recreational grant opportunity was discussed as an option to fund this. Dean estimated based on 130 intersections and a cost estimate from Marc Norton at Copper Island Printing that the entire system would cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000. This would include summer and winter maps where relevant. Jay noted that Glenn Anderson wanted wooden posts when he was City Manager. Jay noted that an auger is in the budget for the tractor to help with the signposts. The Keweenaw Land Trust has no issues with signage. They have funding as well donated for Churning Rapids. Regarding the maps, they will be ghosted Google Earth. Marc Norton is waiting for us to decide what we want. There will be a \$400 cost at Copper Island Printing to do the map. We need to work out all the trail names. John moved that Dean be authorized to draft a grant proposal to the Portage Health Foundation for the map project. John then withdrew the motion pending a discussion later in the meeting.

Kiosk: Nothing to report.

Closed Session: None

Groomers: John Pekkala is taking a break from grooming. Kevin and Wolf have been doing the grooming. The groomers feel the board does not appreciate their efforts. If you have an issue with grooming, bring it through Jay. Wayne asked if we have changed the tracking standards as there are single tracks on wide trails where there were formerly dual tracks. There is concern that this may be inviting to snowmobilers. It turned out that the issue on tracking had to do with the pan breaking on Saturday. Snowmobile incursions on Quincy were discussed. Wayne asked when the groomers are tracking to make sure this occurs before the Ski Tigers come over. John noted that grooming will occur on Saturday before the Barnelopet. Dean confirmed at 11:00 a.m. Jay indicated that the groomer bonus has been increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500 in the budget. John noted that Wolf is now on the payroll.

Budget: Jay reviewed the changes. He discussed the schedules for equipment replacement on all the equipment. We will continue to fund the UTV. The ATV Yamaha Kodiak is due to be replaced next summer (2023). Colin recommends that we get another UTV. It would not need to be fully loaded and would cost \$27,000 to replace. Jay noted that he has bumped up the contribution toward it in the budget. The ATV Outlander is due in 2025. For the tractor, we are building up a fund that is now at \$7,000. The Ginzu is due for replacement in the summer of 2023. The roller and drag are on 10-year cycles. The mower is on a schedule. The emergency fund will be maxed out at \$6,000. A snowmobile purchase will be made this year. We would have \$98,000 in reserve by the end of the year. Revenue and expenses were reviewed with special attention given to the Mud Lake Loop smoothing, the sign project grant match, and an auger. Wayne brought up having a backhoe versus an auger. Mark Roberts reinforced this. Jay then noted we should get a narrower bucket and indicated he would make this switch in the budget. There was discussion of snow bike equipment and upping the ATV to a UTV for better track width. Wayne mentioned the possibility of getting a tractor for hard pulls. Jay feels a tractor

would be a lot of money, \$35,000, and with more weight would have greater risk for getting stuck. There was also discussion about planning for a 60" Ginzu.

Business Sponsors: John noted that we are waiting on the ones highlighted in yellow in his report, including Cross Country Sports, Downwind, Keweenaw Co-op, SNAP Fitness, Finlandia University, and Rhythm.

Barnelopet: Wayne noted that he needs volunteers. Jay, Mark Klein, John, and Jason indicated that they could help. John noted that he has a couple of other volunteers. We need to contact the Ski Tigers to help us as rabbits and sweeps. Jay suggested getting with coaches on the website. John suggested one of the Handler brothers. If you know anyone who can help, get with Wayne. Flyers need to be printed. John got it on the Community Calendar. We need to hang the banners. Registration will be in vehicles. We need to decide about whether to have cookies and hot chocolate.

Retro-Ski: Will be on February 19th. Out-of-towners have contacted Jay about participating.

Glide-N-Gorge: John suggested desserts in tent outside. It was not worth the effort last year due to the small turnout caused by the adverse conditions. We need to resolve the direction this year. We will need volunteers for goodies. We will plan to have a fire at the parking lot. We will ask for pictures again as these can be used on the website. We discussed having a free event again this year with a donation box.

Giving Tuesday: Already reviewed, but this is covering a lot of expenses. We need to send out thank you notes. There were eighty donors. We will plan to do handwritten notes to those donating \$100 or more. There are thirty-eight of those and forty-two lesser donors will receive boiler plate thank you. The Portage Health Foundation has provided receipts. Nate will take care of the generic letter for those less than \$100. Everyone else will do 5 or 6. Meet at the Chalet and get it done by early February.

Portage Health Foundation Recreational Grant: Dean will develop the proposal. Need to decide on direction. UTV for grooming? Implements for the tractor? Mark Roberts suggested a box blade. Wayne suggested an equipment shed. Jay to talk with Mary Babcock and DPW. Buying Mud Lake? We did not know if we could get a reasonable price. This is sixty acres and a price of \$36,000 to \$48,000 is likely. A letter of inquiry will be produced by Dean and Nate by February 2nd.

There is a meeting on January 26th at WUPPDR regarding non-motorized use in the Keweenaw. John Diebel will cover the meeting.

Nate brought up moving forward with Articles of Incorporation for the 4-Seasons Club. Jay noted that with Churning Rapids there is no problem, but not sure how it will go with the Maasto Hiihto property owners. If they are not going to go for it, this would be a reason for separating this part of the signage project. John brought up talking with Mary Babcock, but there does not seem to be an issue with summer use. Jay stated that it looks like we can do a vote in April, then proceed with the paperwork. We need to produce a name and logo. Mark Roberts stated that we

need to get going with this and move it along. Jay took a straw poll and no board members objected to moving forward. Mark Roberts indicated that the name and logo will be the toughest things. Jay challenged the board to be thinking about names ahead of the next meeting and then we could have Christopher Schmidt produce a logo.

The next meeting will be on February 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

**ADDENDUM
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
January 25, 2022**

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

Ahead of convening the meeting, it was noted that Maasto Hiihto was not groomed today, and that Wolf and John cleaned the Pedestrian Bridge.

Jay convened the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Jay indicated that we need a second project for the letter of inquiry to the Portage Health Foundation. We bought the snowmobile so that is out. Trail smoothing needs too much work. Replacement of the Kodiak is estimated at \$27,000, but we are not sure what is available. They can be as high as \$35,000 and start at \$12,000.

If we were to pursue a garage, we will need to get with the city on a location. The estimate is \$100,000. We have \$50,000 to \$55,000 in the reserve fund. John mentioned the possibility of heating a part of cold storage. MJO blocking off eight hundred square feet is estimated at \$63,000. A new structure is projected at 46' x 55' with 2,500 square feet.

We discussed that there was \$7,000 in the snow bike fund and \$500 in donations came in from Giving Tuesday. This would be directed toward the Standic and what remains goes toward the pan. There will no longer be a snow bike fund as this will move into the regular budget. The pan and drag would be on a 12-year cycle.

Signage, but what else?

At least a \$10,000 project for trail improvements. Wayne suggested we set a \$10,000 limit. Options were discussed including Mud Lake, St. Urho Loop, Sisu Hill, and the Pedestrian Bridge. We need estimates on Mud Lake and Sisu Hill.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.