

## **KEWEENAW TRAILS ALLIANCE**

Wednesday-May 13, 2009

7:30 PM – SDC Room 237

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT/REPRESENTING**

Mike Abbott, Michigan Tech

Lori Hauswirth, Chain Drive

Sam Raymond, Copper Harbor Trails Club

Aaron Rogers, Copper Harbor Trails Club

Jay Green, Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club

Jeff Parker, Michigan Tech Trails

Craig Hughes, Copper Island Ski Club

Mike Young

Evan McDonald, Keweenaw Land Trust

#### **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Corrections to previous minutes, Craig Hughes noted that he is now the president of Copper Island Ski Club.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lori reported that they had a pump track planned at Michigan Tech and they were working on a source of dirt. Marc N is continuing to work on an area up in Calumet for a pump track and skills area.

Mike Abbott reported that 58 people had signed up for B2WD and there would be an expo in downtown Houghton that same night.

Bill Marlor was working with Mark Klein on new singletrack at Maasto. Mark had secured needed permissions in the Brooks Road area including his own property. Mark had discussed recreational easement for the Harrington Ridge property but they are not yet interested because of impact on property values. The trail will be used for Chain Drive. The reroute around the Apostolic church has been completed by Doug O and Jim Meese.

Craig Hughes reported that they are planning a dog entrance and trail for Swedetown next season near Red Jacket and the Tamarack Loop.

### **ACTION ITEM UPDATES-ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

Mike A began the discussion on Chamber versus KCVB for organizational 501C-3 as he had some preliminary discussions with Chamber members. Part of larger discussion on partnerships but question is where is the best fit for the KTA. Mike Y noted that many entities are tied to trails in a community, not just tourism. Craig H noted that there had been progress made for silent sports support from the KCVB and they do provide funds for events. Craig suggested we look and mission and vision to see if Chamber is the better fit.

Evan asked what the timeline is and whether we should move slowly on this effort. Mike A. stated that a lack of organization is what is holding us back. Evan acknowledged the need to formalize. Sam had concerns regarding insurance currently received from KCVB. There were questions raised over how the KTS/KCVB is organized and operates. Evan stressed that both KTS/KCVB and the Chamber could contribute in different ways to our efforts and we could benefit from the strengths of each organization.

Craig H and Mike A. acknowledged the need for fiscal controls and making everything clean up front no matter what organization we align with.

Mike A. will present the idea at the Chamber for their consideration and will report back.

### **DOCUMENTING NON-MOTORIZED IMPACT**

Volunteers are gathering data to document non-motorized impact. Craig H will contact Jeff Crumbaugh regarding Trail Running Festival and will check ski trail data. Lori will contact Copperman. Need to check with Dean regarding site visits to Keweenaw Trails.

Aaron distributed CDs of documents he gathered from internet. Reports of non-motorized impacts from industry and similar areas show the growth of this segment. To help with local efforts, Bobbie Dalquist is developing survey that we can hopefully use at all of our events this year to prove impact.

Evan wondered if we could approach realtors to ask about what people are looking for when buying a house – is it trail access? Mike A. said he could ask Dave Jukuri to see if there is a value to trail access locally.

Lori reported that the volunteer log was now available and is online at [keweenawtrails.com](http://keweenawtrails.com)

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

**The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.**