



MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 18, 2023



Officers Present: President, Dan Marich; Chair, Tom Stahl; Secretary, Dave Houghton; Treasurer, Erin Husmann; Trail coordinator Joe McKenney; (Absent, Co-chair Patrick Stahl)

Meeting: Meeting called to order at 6:01pm, 28 in attendance

Meeting Minutes: Dec. 21, 2022 minutes approved, (M/S/C) John Taray/Josh Sirjord

Treasures Report: Financial report approved, (M/S/C) Barrett Ziemer/Sharon Johnson
Main - \$7,344.73 Savings - \$21,947.59 Trail - \$56,315.93 Loan - \$30,040.00

Presidents Report:

- Side Lake to Chisholm trail re-route: Still trying to finish up some paperwork. Signed copies for HibTac records. Important to have St. Louis County sign this since they are our sponsors
- IRR has some grants available that are of interest to us that we can apply to our ASV purchase. 25% match possible.
- Received a call from Josh Brinkman, Emergency Planner from St. Louis County. We may get reimbursement for damages from the Dec. 13-16 snow storm. The state is looking into declaring it as such. During this 2 week period Trail Coordinator Joe McKenney recorded that there were 430 man hours put in by our club. 12 hours by a contractor. At \$32/hr the club would be reimbursed \$13,692.00.
- Feb. 11, 2023 Vintage ride from Hydeaway Bar in Buhl to Tom & Jerry's in Chisholm and back
- Feb. 18, 2023 DAV vintage ride from Palmers in Hibbing to VFW in Keewatin and back

Trail Report:

- Started grooming on Dec. 29, 2022.
- Due to conditions we are only using the BR120 to groom. A few sections that are on solid ground will be done by Big Blue
- Fuel has been expensive
- The new re-route on the Chisholm to Side Lake trail is beautiful
- New PathBlazers signs are coming. These will be posted on our trail heads
- Safety tripods are up.
- The new section on the Side Lake to Chisholm has been signed
- Logging on the south end of the south trail by the Alborn Grade. Watch for truck traffic.
- A pipeline construction project by Sawmill Road. Use caution.
- Chris Lee from the Mesabi Bike Trail has contacted us regarding the ATV trail going in from Chisholm to Buhl. More to come
- The Hibbing to Chisholm may have a section of trail closed for a few days near the Steel Dynamics plant as the Mesabi Bike Trail needs to repair a washout area. No definite date yet. May not effect us. This area has been signed for a safety hazard.
- The Alborn Grade will be shut down and detoured for a short time for construction. Limited info.
- A safety hazard area around the Buhl pit was brought to our attention by members. Joe was going to look into signage in this area. This area is sometimes plowed and used by the public.
- ASV purchase; ASV Corp. has not released any production details for 2023. Cost is going up. Only 2 available in the U.S. right now. Joe is looking into all options. The federal grant is only good for so long then we loose it.

MnUSA News - DeLyle Pankrantz (absent tonight):

- Not much to report at this time
- MnUSA Winter Rendezvous Feb. 9-11, 2023 at Grand Casino in Hinkley

Old Business:

- Web site is up and running www.pathblazersclub.com. A very easy way to renew membership or join
- Do something for next years Snowmobile Day Oct. 29, 2023?

Old Business (cont'd)

- Club apparel - Josh Sirjord presented us with samples. Will make a minor change in logo. Discussed cost, quantities, logo locations, online orders. Will be finalizing and ordering soon.
- Business Memberships; \$125 & \$250 business memberships soon to be available. Business's able to advertise on our web page, Facebook page, our "Welcome" signs on the trails. To be discussed
- **Club Ride - Feb 3, 4, 5, 2023.** North Shore. **Meeting at the steel bridge on the west side of Hibbing at 9:00 am.** Leave for North Shore from Hibbing on Friday for those who want to ride there. Staying at Grand Superior Lodge both nights. You don't have to stay 2 nights as required by the motel. Rooms available.
- Safety Training Jan. 7, 2023 - once again very successful. A Big Thank You to Jim Watkins and all the volunteers. 21 youths were trained. Another training date will be set up soon.
- Keewatin ATV club trail discussion. We were left out of the loop. No current atv trails on U.S. Steel property. Many factors. Trail may be a long way out. We don't want to loose this trail because of actions of others or if US Steel just decides they don't want any motorized trails. Before any discussions we are going to do our homework.
- Club Membership - 122 total, 36% registered online, 29 new members

New Business:

- Trail Coordinator Joe McKenney, Tim Maki, Chris Beel and Dave Houghton attended the Groomer Show in Isle, MN. Received some info on new groomers. Used may be a more economical route. We do have a line on a few nice used ones. We are starting to plan for the future. BR180 is a model year 2000 & the New Holland is a 2011.
- The Black Woods ALS Blizzard Tour contacted us to see if the tour could use our building as a stop on the ALS tour. President Dan Marich told him yes and we would be honored to help out. Black Woods Tour members will be doing all the set up. They will be there between 9am to 3-4pm. State Senator David Tomassoni was from Chisholm and passed away last year due to ALS. **A couple of Volunteers will be needed. Please contact Pres. Dan Marich or Dave Houghton** if you can help out. Dan is going to contact some media personal to see if they know of this stop in Chisholm.
- Next monthly meeting will be **Wed. Feb. 15, 2023 at Billy's Pit Stop Pub & Grub in Buhl, MN.** Meeting starts at 6:00pm.
- Organize a club ride to meetings for those that would like to ride can ride in a group.

Communications:

- Special speaker 8th District Congressman Pete Stauber and Jacob Warkentin. We talked about the importance of recreation as an economic impact. He sits on the Natural Resources Committee and is a proponent of keeping public lands open for all public use. Commended our club for the hard work we put in building trails, working with land owners and our dedication to the sport. Trail coordinator Joe McKenney & Jodi Olson explained our position when it comes to re-routes and how clubs are left out to dry on costs or reimbursement. Discussed grants and some of the obstacles when applying, the size of the grant falls short of the equipment cost and restrictions of the grant when it comes to equipment options or lack there of.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourned at 7:06pm, (M/S/C) Joe McKenney/Barrett Ziemer

Next Meeting: Feb. 15, 2023
Billy's Pit Stop Pub & Grub in Buhl
Starts at 6:00pm
Don't Forget Your Non Perishable Food Donation
This months donation goes to The Chisholm Food Shelf

Questions, Concerns, Comments? Contact the following:
Secretary, Dave Houghton - 263-5889 President, Dan Marich - 996-1003 Chair, Tom Stahl - 966-3277
Vice-Chair, Patrick Stahl - 969-3582 Trial Coordinator, Joe McKenney - 969-9717