



## MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 20, 2023



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

**Meeting:** Meeting called to order at 6:05pm, 29 in attendance

**Meeting Minutes:** April 27, 2023 minutes approved, (M/S/C) Chris Beel/Patrick Stahl

**Treasures Report:** Sept. 20, 2023 Financial report approved, (M/S/C) John Taray/Dale Davidson  
Main - \$102,043.11 Savings - \$12,030.62 Trail - \$70,027.69  
Loan Account/Line of Credit \$110,317.00 (Current bal. \$66,127.90 & Avail. credit \$44,189.10)

### **Presidents Report:**

- Review of what has been going on since April:
  - Purchase of Piston Bully (\$90k) from Drift Skippers in Grand Rapids, sold BR180 (\$45k), Grant for \$45k, Bully is paid for
  - Purchased a trailer (\$10,569.00) for ASV from Lulich in Wis., traded in Land Pride Brusher (\$5k) and received a grant (\$5k), the trailer cost the club \$569
  - PathBlazers Safety Initiative; May 30 & 31 club members trained in CPR/AED by Eric Jankala & Kristi McCormick. No cost to club, but they would like some of the staff at HFD to be snowmobile trained. HFD has a rescue sled designed to go on skies or wheels, HFD looking to purchase a snowmobile. Rescue equipment will be donated or through various grant programs.
  - Pulling our trailer/ASV will require the individual to have their name on a list with our insurance company.
- \$100k grant money is in our savings acct. This is from a MN transportation bill headed up by David Lislegard/Grant Hauschild. 7 northeastern MN clubs each received \$100k from this bill. Thank You to Dave & Grant for their work.  
**Motion:** Gift hooded sweatshirts to David Lislegard & his wife as a Thank You for his work. (M/S/C) Joe McKenney/Mark Anderson
- Our building was damaged by a four wheeler. Police report filed. Quote to fix by First Call Renovations was about \$1200 - \$1600. It was decided not to file a claim. PathBlazers will pay out of pocket. Keep it simple sometimes.
- Iron Range Trail map was reviewed. Some small changes. Looking for advertisers.
- Worried about time, there was a new clock installed at our maintenance shop. No excuses when the wife calls.
- By-Laws: Last updated 2014, Updated the following:
  - Concerning Vice Chair, changed to Vice Chair/Trail Coordinator. The trail coordinator was added as a board position due to the decisions, spending and responsibilities. The trail coordinator is also at all the meetings so this will help to make a quorum.
  - Struck (removed) 2 year term limits on board positions.
  - Added, "Trail Administrator is a volunteer position" and include a description of this position.
  - By-Laws were read with above amendments**Motion:** Accept the changes in the PathBlazers By-Laws as read. (M/S/C) Mark Anderson/Kevin Scaia
- **Elections for the board** for our club are coming up at our **Oct. meeting. Nominations for President & Co-Chair** will be at the meeting and voting to follow. Oct. is also our pizza & wings party in appreciation for all our members.

### **Trail Report:**

- All rocks can be removed on the Mesabi Bike Trail in Hibbing & Chisholm
- Trail work on the bridge of our south trail is needed. Schedule before deer season. Some welding to be done.
- IRRR is sponsoring a seasonal shared trail on the east side of the Monroe pit in Chisholm. Nothing we can do. Discovery Center wants the current ATV/UTV trail moved. We are pushing for NO WINTER USE. The trail will be narrow for both entities.
- Keewatin ATV proposed shared trail, no new news. Will take some time. KeeTac & land owners permission still needed
- Equipment Maintenance;
  - Working evenings, try to finish before deer season. Emails will go out for dates & times
  - Shop tank & Side Lake fuel tanks will be filled before fuel cost's go up

### Trail Report (cont'd)

- Trying to get ahold of KeeTac about the beaver dam on the South Trail by hwy. 169
- Trail brushing will be done after deer season except some areas near Hibbing & Chisholm.
- A used snow pusher is for sale by First Call Renovations. It has a quick tach sys. which fits the ASV & has been used twice. This would make plowing the shop way easier than using the groomer, which is not always available, and some of the members personal plows struggle under heavy snow conditions. Asking \$2500.00
- **Motion:** Purchase snow pusher for ASV for the price of \$2500. (M/S/C) Tim Maki/John Taray
- The federal reimbursement grant received for the ASV is now available for other groomers not made in the USA. This opens up the choices
- Start talking about a new groomer for next year. The club is in a good position to start planning. May involve selling one of the tractors toward the end of the season.
- Shelter @ the Day Brook "T", Shelter would be built from lumber we already have. Seek donations for roof mat'l if need be. This is not a shared shelter with Northern TRAXX as rumors had it.

### MnUSA News - DeLyle Pankrantz:

- New admin. assistant (Kelly). Seems very responsive. Some changes already
- MnUSA Fall Workshop Oct. 27-29, 2023 in Lakeville, MN. This is a great way to learn more about the business side of snowmobiling & trails. The 3 Old Guys will be there to speak. If you would like to attend, go to [www.mnsnowmobiler.org](http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org) for more info.
- Legislative session passed 4 of 5 laws MnUSA was looking for. This is one area MnUSA works for clubs & snowmobilers & the trails we ride.
- Yearly dues have gone up. If you join through a club it will now be \$30. There has not been an increase for 10+ yrs.

### Old Business:

- Open House, Land Owners Appreciation Day
  - Planning meeting was held Aug. 3, 2023
  - Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, 12-4:00pm,
  - Flyer designed by Barrett Ziemer, several ads out on radio & paper, social media
  - Food headed up by Chris Beel & Jim Watkins, purchased locally, run to Jubilee in Chisholm if we run short
  - Email for sweats & treats, check with Chisholm Home Ec. class for this in the future. (maybe Blizzard Tour)
  - Tables & Chairs from Mark Anderson
  - Set-up time 10am Saturday morning, all welcome
  - MnUSA sending a package with different things
  - Clothing and membership sign up table
- MRTUA (Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association), there is an open seat on the board. It would be beneficial to have some one from this region on this board. Waiting for more info.

### New Business:

- Kevin Scaia donated the \$100 check he received for helping out in the Range tourism video. Thank you. Video can be seen on our website [www.pathblazersclub.com](http://www.pathblazersclub.com).
- MnUSA Raffle calendars will be ordered soon for the 2024 season. Our region did see a few winners.
- We will try to have another clothing order this fall and have them by Christmas. Possibly new options.
- Letters will go out soon for renewing memberships. This is still a very effective way to reach members as 62% of the renewals come through the mail. Business memberships an option for \$100 (per last years decision)
- Next monthly meeting will be **Voters Meeting & Pizza Party Night, Wednesday, October 18, 2023** at Jim's Sports Club in Chisholm. Meeting starts at 6:00pm, BUT, food will start around 5:15pm.

### Communications:

**Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourned at 7:30pm, (M/S/C) Dale Davidson/Steve Carlson

**Next Meeting: October 18, 2023**

**Pizza Party & Voters Meeting at Jim's Sports Club in Chisholm**

**Food about 5:15ish, meeting starts @ 6:00pm**

*Don't Forget Your Non Perishable Food Donation  
This months donation goes to The Chisholm Food Shelf*

*For more information, questions or comments, please feel free to contact the following:*

*Secretary, Dave Houghton - 263-5889    President, Dan Marich - 996-1003    Vice-Chair, Patrick Stahl - 969-3582  
Chair, Tom Stahl - 966-3277    Trail Coordinator, Joe McKenney - 969-9717*