



MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2023



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

Meeting: Meeting called to order at 6:04pm, 40 in attendance

Meeting Minutes: Sept. 20, 2023 minutes approved, (M/S/C) Chris Beel/Jamie McKenney

Treasures Report: Oct. 18, 2023 Financial report approved, (M/S/C) Joe McKenney/Tim Arnold
Main - \$99,679.63 Savings - \$12,041.00 Trail - \$68,882.39
Loan Account/Line of Credit \$110,317.00 (Current bal. \$66,127.90 & Avail. credit \$44,189.10)

'23-'24 Board of Directors Elections

- Vice Chair (now combined with trail coordinator), 2 year term
 - Nominated: Joe McKenney by Dave Houghton, second by Jodi Olson; Others ?(3 times), no others; Unopposed
Vote: All in favor - All; Opposed - none
So moved, Joe McKenney voted onto the PathBlazers Board of Directors as Trail Coordinator/Vice Chair
- President, 2 year term
 - Nominated: Dan Marich by Chris Beel, second by Rick Harding; Barrett Ziemer by Dan Marich, second by Steve Carlson, Others ?(3 times), no others
Vote: Show of hands vote for Dan Marich, total - 26 (65%)
So moved, Dan Marich voted onto PathBlazers Board of Directors by majority vote as President
- Trail Administrator (Volunteer Position) - Current Trail Admin. & PathBlazers Pres. Dan Marich explained the ease and importance of this position and that communication to the board members, county & DNR is the key to this position. We would like to see a person/people to start learning this position for there will be a day that the torch must be handed off. Barrett Ziemer accepted to become a learner of this position and encouraged others to do the same.

Presidents Report:

- DNR has not released the final G.I.A. numbers for this season, it will be close to last years. First request due Dec. 15th
- Beth Pierce from IRVCB notified us of an insurance meeting in Grand Rapids focused on snowmobile/atv clubs. This is related to the ongoing \$25m lawsuit due to a death on the trail in Itasca County last year. Clubs in that area are now having issues getting coverage. PathBlazers is not effected because our insurance is set up different
- Snowmobile safety training for this season. Discussed with Trainer/Coordinator Jim Watkins via phone. One day in Jan. and one in Feb. Jessica Stahl volunteered to assist Jim this year. More help for setup day is always welcome.
Motion: First snowmobile training day Saturday, January 6, 2024. (M/S/C) Joe McKenney/Jessica Stahl
- Fairview Range Health & Rangers Snowmobile Club of Aurora held a safety day at The Discovery Center. Our club knew nothing of it.
- Land Owner Appreciation Day Sept. 30th, great turnout, THANK YOU to all that helped out
- 2024 ALS Blizzard Tour, Pres. Dan reached out to them to confirm they will be stopping in Chisholm, Yes they will.
- Damage to building, waiting on materials. 4-5 hours to complete
- Security System, quote from LifeSystems was \$4800. Looking into other options. Many choices. The building my need some additional wiring. Discussion.
Motion: Continue to pursue security systems based on quote from Hart Electric (M/S/C) Dan Tarnowski/Ken Knutsen
- Business Memberships for our club set at \$100. Approved links could be added to our website. Look at sending out membership forms to Hibbing/Chisholm Chamber Members
- Club Ride 2024, start planning. Feb. date. Looking for some guidance and ideas. (last year was a North Shore ride)
- Membership forms will be sent our soon via USPS. Very effective still. 62% of last years membership was via mail
- We now have MnUSA Raffle Calendars. Limited supply. \$20 each.

Trail Report:

- All rocks removed on the Mesabi Bike Trail in Hibbing & Chisholm
- Some signage needed at split of Hibbing/Buhl trails

Trail Report (cont'd)

- Special thanks to Dan Brant & friends for fixing the steel bridge on our south trail.
- New shelter plans coming together. Final size and plans to be completed. We have some of the materials and more available through members and local business'.
- Public info meeting about the proposed ATV club utilizing our south trail for ATV/UTV seasonal use scheduled for Oct. 19, 2023 at the Hibbing City Hall. Itasca County rep. & ATV club rep. will be present. Starts @ 3:30pm
- 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 are filled
- Trying to get ahold of KeeTac about the beaver dam on the South Trail by hwy. 169
- Trail work will be done after deer season except some areas near Hibbing & Chisholm.
- Start talking about a new groomer for next year. The club is in a good position to start planning. May involve selling New Holland towards the end of the season. Looking for more grants to better our financial position on purchase. 1 year out on any delivery of a new machine.

MnUSA News - DeLyle Pankrantz:

- MnUSA Fall Workshop is 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 for more info.
- MnUSA Winter Rendezvous will be Feb. 8-11, 2024 in Ottertail, MN.

Old Business:

- Open House, Land Owners Appreciation Day, great attendance. Thanks to all who made it happen
- MRTUA (Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association), there is an open seat on the board. Position will be picked by board who they want.
- We will try to have another clothing order with some other options possibly. We will be working with a new supplier. Original supplier Aaron Bonelli is "retiring". Thanks Aaron for all your support of the club.
- Iron Range Trail map is almost complete.

New Business:

- 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 meetings will be **November 15, 2023 at Snicker's Pizza & Pub in Chisholm**. The December meeting will be our Christmas Gift Exchange and will be held December 20, 2023 at Valentini's in Chisholm.
- Just a reminder of the importance of our non-perishable food items to our local food shelves. Please continue to bring your items to the monthly meetings

Communications:

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn at 7:30pm, (M/S/C) Dave Houghton/Chris Beel

Next Meeting: November 15, 2023
Snicker's Pizza & Pub in Chisholm
Meeting starts @ 6:00pm

Don't Forget Your Non Perishable Food Donation
This months donation goes to The Hibbing Salvation Army

For more information, questions or comments, please feel free to contact the following:
Secretary, Dave Houghton - 263-5889 President, Dan Marich - 996-1003 Chair, Tom Stahl - 966-3277
Trail Coordinator, Joe McKenney - 969-9717