

MINUTES APRIL 16, 2008
Harbor Springs Chapter
North Country Trail Association

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Keeney at 7:00 pm.

Present: Jerry Keeney, President; Lenny Greenwood; Treasurer, Tim Calloway, Trail Foreman; Anne Billiard, Secretary; Dennis Fay, Web Site Manager; Members Sharyn Thompson, Dale Rhea; Guest, Ralph Mueller.

Trail Report – Tim Calloway

- There is a work day this Saturday, April 19. There is a lot to do.
 - Tree removal. There are reports of many large trees down on several sections. Chain saws will be needed.
 - Need to move the log box at Section 4 further from the road. It was covered by snow from the plow this winter.
 - There have been complaints that there aren't enough blazes on Cecil Bay Road West into Wilderness Park. Need to paint more.
- Our first hike is scheduled for Sunday, May 18. It's a 7 ½ mile hike through one of the most beautiful sections of Wilderness State Park. Anne will contact Gary Z. about a press release.
- We were mentioned in the Harbor Springs Cycling Club Newsletter, and also on their website. All good; how they appreciate what we do, and how we would appreciate them helping us by joining or just monetary donations.
- Tim will contact the Mackinaw City Chamber about mounting one of our maps on their wall.
- The map that the Mackinaw City Chamber published has our trail labeled incorrectly as "snowmobile trail." Tim will work with them to correct the mistakes.
- We have received favorable comments about the added signage at the Mackinaw City Trailhead. It was confusing with both the Boy Scouts Trail and the NCT being marked with blue blazes.
- Tim received an email today from Robin Pearson at the Grayling DNR office regarding the kiosk at the Mackinaw City Trailhead. She said that as far as she knows it is still being funded. Tim will stay in contact with her. We may get to use our panel yet!
- Tim is still in contact with the woman who may let us move our road walk through her property. The land owners behind her may be more difficult to convince.
- Anne will contact members and determine which sections still need monitors, and to remind all members that they all can report problems.

Secretary's Report – Anne Billiard

- Anne reported on the log sheets.
 - In 2006 (the first year) we had 509 people sign.
 - In 2007, 930 signed.
 - So far in 2008 38 people have signed.
- Anne will crunch the numbers and get the number of local/non-local, hikers/bikers.

- Letters will be mailed to 180 at-large NCTA members from Michigan, encouraging them to join our chapter.

Treasurer's Report – Lenny Greenwood

- We will be purchasing a GPS system with a \$300.00 grant from National. We will probably have to include some of our Chapter money with that to purchase the necessary software. Lenny will do this before our first hike, May 18.
- We have \$218.75 in our local bank.
- We have \$1885.48 on account at National
- Remember, the NCT gets \$18.75 for every volunteer hour reported.

Web Page Report – Dennis Fay

- Everything is up and running great. In order to have a counter, it would cost us \$\$.
- Please send any news items or photos to Dennis to put on the web site.

President's Report – Jerry Keeney

- National “borrowed” money from our account to cover a deficit. They have since returned it. Jerry is talking to them to determine what safeguards will be put in place to prevent it from happening again. (They don't have a treasurer)
- Dues have increased while the amount of money we get for each member has gone down from 25% to 20%.
- 61% of NCTA's budget is for administration.
- Jerry is still trying to get the re-route around Mackinaw City and the eagle's nest on section 6. Things were put on hold last year because of budget cuts. Anne will check with Ken Phillips at the Indian River DNR office to see if they will be able to mark the re-route this year.
- Jerry will go to the “No Child Left Inside” committee meeting on Thursday, April 17. There was a great TV show on PBS last night, “Where the Children Play.” The committee will be trying to get a copy out for public showings.
- Inland Lakes Schools planning on building a nature trail on 8 acres they own. Anne is contacting the head of maintenance to set day and time to mark the trail. Jerry and Tim would like to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne C. Billiard,
Secretary