

HARBOR SPRINGS CHAPTER  
North Country Trail Association  
Meeting Minutes November 19, 2009

Prior to the meeting we had our annual pot-luck. The food, as always, was DELICIOUS! Many new members were in attendance, so we got to make new friends. We can't wait until spring to get back on the trail. However, I heard that the Hike Coordinator might be planning on scheduling some snow-shoeing excursions!

- The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Jerry Keeney.
- A motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting was made by Gary Zebko; seconded by Bill Twiddy. Motion approved.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: The only change from last month is an increase of \$150 from membership fees. Dennis reported that we get \$10 from each paid membership.
- MACKINAW CITY RE-ROUTE:
  - Jerry will look into grants for lumber to build boardwalks on the wet sections of the re-route by Mackinaw City. It will be a spring project.
  - Bev Zelt will check to see if there are any Boy Scouts who need to work on an Eagle project. This would be a great project for them.
  - Jim is looking for old, wide bicycle tires. He is making a cart for hauling supplies into remote places like the re-route.
  - Nancy and Gary Zebko will have wolmanized lumber from the replacement of their deck that we may be able to use.
  - The re-route has not been blazed yet, as it has been too cold. Tim will blaze it when it warms up a bit.
- SECTION 3 BOARDWALK
  - We received a nice thank you note from Eagle Scout Riley Hirn for our help in the completion of his Eagle Scout project.
  - Riley was given a one-year sponsored membership to the chapter for his work on the trail.
- TRAIL FOREMAN
  - Tim Calloway reported that all 46 miles that we maintain are in excellent condition, thanks to the efforts of the trail monitors.
  - Tim was not able to mow this year, and it took 3 members to take up the slack: Dennis Fay, Jim Stamm, and Greg Billiard.
  - The Mackinaw City re-route was done primarily with the 7-man Michigan Works crew that Tim supervised because we are a 501C-3 organization (non-profit). The re-route moved 1.25 miles off the road and back into the woods. We are very grateful that they were able to work on the trail.
- ELECTION OF OFFICERS:
  - Jerry Keeney, President; Nancy Zebko, Vice President; Dennis Fay, Treasurer; Anne Billiard, Secretary; Trail Foreman, Tim Calloway; Hike Coordinator, Margo Hodder (new position).
  - Next year we will try to form a nominating committee. We really would like to get some 'new blood' into leadership positions.
- CALENDAR FOR 2010: Nancy Z, Margo H, and Anne B. will meet to formulate next years calendar. Date TBD.
- TRAIL MAPS:
  - Dennis has been working to reduce the size of the maps to make them less expensive. The current size of 8½ x 22 costs \$0.22 each. If we could get the size down to 8 ½ x 11, the cost would be \$0.08 each. There was concern that the map was too small in an 8½ x11 version. We will have a map meeting on December 15 at 7pm at Anne Billiard's house. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

- The color maps printed by the NCTA have omissions and errors. We informed them of the corrections, but the maps remain unchanged. They have also raised the price. We feel that our maps provide much more accurate and reliable information for hikers.
- KIOSK AT MACKINAW CITY:
  - The DNR has reduced the size of the kiosk from 6 to 3 panels. It was originally thought that all the local trail groups whose trails meet at that point (behind the Baymont Hotel) would have information on a panel.
  - Dave Trautmann drew up a design for a 3-paneled kiosk. Jim Stamm has volunteered to build it. It was decided that since it's only 3 sided, and we are going to be building it, all 3 sides should be devoted to the North Country Trail.
  - Jerry Keeney, Jim Stamm, and Bill Twiddy will get together to write a grant for materials for the kiosk. The deadline for the NCT grant is December 15.
  - Tim was given permission to place a temporary sign at the Mackinaw City location. It is in place.
- NEW BUSINESS:
  - Margo Hodder was elected to the newly created Hike Coordinator position.
  - Margo hiked section 9 and said that the blazes were very clear and a big help.
  - Next spring trail monitors need to check the blazes in all sections, as some of them are 5 years old and may need to be touched up.
  - The annual Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Anne Billiard, who really doesn't think she deserves it, but will take it anyway, with many thanks. It seems strange to be honored for something that is fun to do. ☺ But thanks to you all. I'm glad to be a part of this great group!