

HARBOR SPRINGS CHAPTER
NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes April 15, 2010

- Present: Jerry Keeney, President; Dennis Fay, Treasurer, Tim Calloway, Trail Foreman, Margo Hodder, Hike coordinator; Anne Billiard, Secretary; Jim and Nancy Stamm; Bruce Allard; Carol Smith; Sheila Malleis; Jeff Seiple.
- Secretaries Report: There were no corrections to the minutes from the November, 2009 meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: We have received \$290 in donations, \$148.86 in member dues, bringing our balance in our two accounts to \$1447.42. Dennis will write a check to Pro Build for the lumber to build the boardwalk on the Mackinaw City reroute. Jerry said that we are now receiving a larger percentage from dues than previously.
- Trail Report:
 - Sec. 1 from Kipp to Valley – cleared by Tim and Lenny Greenwood. From Valley to Brutus is in good shape. Greg mowed the blackberry bushes back on that part.
 - Sec. 2 – Needs work, nothing major. We will plan a work day and take care of what needs to be done. Culvert needs replacing, re-blazing, some trees are hung up.
 - Sec. 3 – Cleared by Dave Irish, re-blazed by Margo, Jim, and Nancy.
 - Sec. 4 – Lark's Lake Road to Palmer is in good shape. Palmer to Robinson needs checking.
 - Sec. 5 - Needs checking. Tracy Johnson and Nini Sherwood will monitor.
 - Sec. 6 to pipeline – checked by Dennis, re-blazed by Margo
 - Sec. 8 – The tree that was hung up was removed by the DNR.
 - Sec. 11 – New re-route. See below
 - It has been 5 years since we blazed the trails, so probably all will need freshening. Jerry will order 2 gallons of paint, and Tim will put together a few paint kits.
 - Burr Mitchell, superintendent at Wilderness State Park is great to work with. Each person working on the trail inside of the park will need to fill out a safety form once a year. All safety gear **MUST** be worn when working in the park.
 - We have some new equipment for trail use. A large sledge/ax for stump removal, and a smaller sledge/ax for root removal. They will be needed on Sec. 11. We also have a battery powered hedge trimmer, which is great for cutting back the berry bushes that grow over the trails. Let me know if you need any of the tools, and we'll make them available for you.
 - Dennis made great directional signs for sections 6-11, indicating how long the section is, where to pick up the next section, etc. He will also make them for the end of Sec. 2 and beginning of Sec. 3, with directions for the road walk.

- There will be a work day on Sunday, April 18 for the new re-route on Sec. 11. We need to install boardwalks over the wet areas. There are places where the water is actually flowing. We will need at the Billiard's house at 9am and car pool. We will need: battery powered drills, hammers, tape measures, gloves, lunches, post hole digger, chain saw, pruners, sledges. Tim has blazed more of it, will finish it soon. (Members were emailed Thursday after the meeting.)
- Kiosk in Mackinaw City is on hold because there is a construction project taking place in that area from May until August. Hopefully, after August, we can finally move on it.
- Hikes:
 - We had six snowshoeing outings this winter, both on our trails and trails maintained by the Tittabawassee Chapter (south of Petoskey). All were great fun! Thanks to Margo for getting us moving this winter!
 - April 24 (Saturday) - The Tittabawassee Chapter is hosting a hike in the Jordan River Valley. More information will follow.
 - May 1(Saturday) - The Little Traverse Nature Conservancy is holding a hike on the Brubaker Rd/Krause Rd. section. More information will follow.
 - May 10 (Sunday/Mother's Day) – Sec. 2. The flowers may be past peak because of the early spring. We will be going out for dinner (probably at Teddy Griffin's) after the hike, for anyone interested. Let either Anne or Margo know if you plan on going to dinner, so we can call and let the restaurant know how many to expect.
 - Discussion was held as to allowing dogs on group hikes. The group felt that since not everyone is a dog lover (or even liker), and the fact that we often have to shuttle people, we will continue to discourage dog owners from bringing dogs on group outings.
- Daniel Watson is the Volunteer Coordinator of the North Country and Ice Age Trails. He will be at Jerry Keeney's house on May 2 (time TBA) to talk about trail issues. Peggy would like to have a brunch, so please let Anne or Jerry know if you plan on attending.
- Fred Szarka has retired from the National Park Service. We will miss him.
- Top of Michigan Trails Council has a new executive director. There has been good communication.
- April 24 – (for those not hiking the Jordan River) the Nature Conservancy is having a cleanup of their new property, the Offield Preserve on Quick Road.
- We would like to get at least 8 more of the big 2'x2' NCT signs. We would like to put them (back to back) at Lark's Lake Road, Levering Road, trail's End Rd., West Lakeview Road, and Kipp Road. Jerry will call National and/or talk to Daniel Watson to find out where to get them.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 17 at 7 pm at the Crooked River Lodge in Alanson.
 Hope to see you then.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Billiard, Secretary