

Harbor Springs Chapter, North Country Trail Association
Meeting Minutes August 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Keeney after a wonderful barbeque dinner provided by Peggy Keeney and cooked by Bill Twiddy.

Present were: Jerry Keeney, President; Dennis Fay, Treasurer; Anne Billiard, Secretary; Tim Calloway, Trail Foreman; Bruce Allard, Greg Billiard, Sheila Malleis, Bill Twiddy, Jim Ellis, Linda %%%, Kirsten Cochran, Carol Smith, Margo Hodder, Peggy Keeney, Jim Stamm, Nancy Stamm.

Jerry started the meeting by reading a poem he had written about a newt. It was very cute!

We are still trying to find out whom to contact and how to get the kiosk erected at the trailhead in Mackinaw City. For the time being, the DNR is suggesting that we put our sign on the post placed by the Boy Scouts.

Treasurer Dennis Fay gave a detailed statement of transactions for 2009 to date. We currently have \$950.61 in our NCTA account and \$347.00 in the local account. We many need money for boardwalks in the new re-route by Mackinaw City.

Bruce asked if we knew who had been working on the trail between Swampline Road and Sturgeon Bay. He said it has been flattened and trimmed. Dennis will check with Burr (Head Ranger at Wilderness) to see what they are doing, and if they need help.

Trail Report:

Sec. 1 – OK, Greg mowed in August.

Sec. 2 – Needs some trimming of blackberry bushes.

Sec. 3 – Jim mowed recently

Sec. 4 – Will check during hike (it does need mowing from Robinson in)

Sec. 5- OK – Could use a little trimming from the dam to Sturgeon Bay Trail.

Sec. 7 – Too hard to mow. If you hike there, please take pruners and help keep it clear.

Sec. 8 – There is a huge tree about 60 yards hung up on a dead tree. It is going to fall.

Dennis and Bruce will take care of it.

Sec. 9 – Goose Pond to Cecil Bay may need work

Sec. 10 – French Farm Lake area may need work.

Sec. 11 - ! Tim and his Michigan Works crew have done Herculean work in cutting, clearing, and raking the re-route. It was VERY thick and hard going. It will need to be painted with blue blazes, and also ‘unpainted’ at trails end where it was changed. If you go into it, take loppers to cut away some of the roots that are now exposed. Jim may make mile

markers for this section. It will also need to be GPS'ed. We will add a hike in October to celebrate this trail. Watch for the date.

The National Conference for 2010 will be in Wisconsin. We are hoping to have some members attend. We were one of only a handful of chapters who didn't have representation at the 2009 conference in North Dakota. We were sent a DVD of the Conference. Beautiful photos, but the audio didn't turn out.

Tim Calloway was nominated by Peggy Keeney for NCTA's Distinguished Service Award. He did win this award. He is very deserving of it! Congratulations, Tim!

We are already running low on maps. We paid \$671 for 3000 maps. It was suggested that since we "advertise" local businesses on our maps, they may be willing to help us cover the costs of printing the maps. Gary Zebko will contact the businesses and try to get donations. (See what happens when you aren't at the meetings?)

Before we print new maps, we will need to re-write the section to include the new re-route by Mackinaw City. We also want to put GPS points at the trail heads.

We had such a great time at the Keeney's, we decided that the next meeting (Oct. 15) will be at Anne and Greg Billiard's in Alanson. Details to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Billiard, Secretary

P.S. We had a delightful hike on Sunday, August 23, on Section 4. (Larks Lake Road to Robinson Rd.)

Our next hike is scheduled for Sunday, September 27. We may revise where we hike. I will keep you posted.

We will also let you know when we plan to hike the new re-route by Mackinaw City. It will most likely be in October.