Ice Age Trail Alliance

Chippewa Moraine Chapter

Annual Meeting 11-18-2024

Present: Dave Hladilek, Cindy Hladilek, Pat Kosher, Julie Kosher, Ann Hansen, Jerry Sazama, Vicki Christianson, Mary Skalecki, Richard Smith, Pat McKearn, Bob Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, Kyle Berg, Sherry Jasper, Joy Lancour, Barb Flom, Randy Hedegaard, Lara Hedegaard, Kevin Litten

**Agenda**

1. **Call to order, Introductions, Additions to agenda**

 Vicki Christianson called the Annual meeting at Camp Nawakwa to order at 6:00 p.m. following a hearty potluck meal. Members introduced themselves.

2. **Reports, Updates and Discussion**

 Mary presented minutes of Sept. 24 meeting and the minutes of the Nov. 21, 2023 Annual meeting. Vicki clarified current membership count of 266 individuals.

Minutes were approved. (P. Kosher/A. Hansen)

 Vicki reported 29 new members in 2024.

3. **Annual Meeting Reports**

 A packet of detailed reports was distributed. Highlights as noted:

**Chapter Activities-**Vicki Since Covid trail usage has jumped to record levels. The chapter sponsored a great variety of organized hikes beginning with snowshoeing in February to Hike and Meet Monty in October. Shuttles were a record 88 in number. Merchandise sales were down due to changes at the Obey Center. Volunteers promoted our trail with a series of booths and presentations taking place throughout the year. It takes dedicated volunteers to manage these activities..thanks to all!

**2024 Yearly Financial Report-**Vicki for Tom Kolb Oct. 31 balance is $13,222.53. Copies of the report were distributed and detailed line by line. Treasurer’s Report was approved. (B. Mitchell/P. Kosher)

**2024 Trail Maintenance, Construction, Stewardship, Equipment Inventory Report-**Jerry highlighted another productive year in the areas of Signage, Mowing, Structures, and Tread along with our volunteers providing assistance to the Blue Hills chapter. Equipment is stored in a secure facility. Two major projects are planned for 2025 including a .5 mile reroute at Kim’s Crossing, and trail installation at Otter Lake Preserve.

**2025 Proposed Trail Calendar**-Vicki Mark your calendars everyone for another year of opportunities to experience and improve our beautiful trails in the Chippewa Moraine. Trail maintenance days are 3rd Saturday monthly. Bring your friends and family and get involved with many new events scheduled.

**4. Old Business**

 **Chapter Patch Update**-Julie reported a grand total of 140 patches have been

earned by individuals hiking the entire mileage of the Chippewa Moraine. The chapter is now in a profit mode earning $8 per patch.

 **Ramp Up Report**-Vicki highlighted NPS Volunteer Report including chain saw training dates, and Alliance MSC events scheduled around the state for 2025. We have 58 volunteers with signed Volunteer Agreements. Be sure to update yours on the IATA website. A continuing concern is invasive honeysuckle on Krank Reserve.

 **Obey Center Update**- The center is open year round 9-3 for 5 days per week. New staff are Mickey Mueller and Ally Peterson. School presentations are continuing.

**5. New Business**

 **Report of 2024 Corridor Committee-** A written report was included in your packet of materials. Dan Masterpole, Pat Kosher, JoAnn Parks, Mike Rivers, Richard Smith, and Vicki Christianson serve on this committee. The team is working with a 2 year plan toward converting connecting road into trail starting with anchor points of the Winery in Cornell and the newly acquired Otto Lake Preserve. Potentially Chippewa County will encompass 52 miles of trail.

 **Annual Conference-** Stevens Point April 10-13 2025. Get your hotel reservation in early.

 **2024 Allocation-** Motion was made and approved to donate our $1/member allocation to the IATA Chapter Resource Fund. (J. Sarama/J. Lancour)

 **2025 Proposed Annual Budget**-Vicki detailed line item by line item the budget for next year as prepared by Treasurer Tom Kolb. Discussion and rationale were shared. Budget was approved. (P. Kosher/A. Hansen)

 **Election of Officers**-

 Assistant Coordinator- Julie Kosher Approved (B. Mitchell/A. Hansen)

 Secretary- Julie Kosher- Approved (A. Hansen/J. Lancour)

 Co-Coordinator special 1 year term- Jerry Sazama- Approved (B. Mitchell/P. Kosher) Jerry has capably served in the Trail Coordinator position since 2015 and will mentor the new Coordinator for 1 year.

 Trail Coordinator- Ann Hansen Approved (K. Berg/B. Mitchell)

 **In the Mud Award Nomination**- Ann Hansen who has served the trail as a swamper, shuttle driver, blazer, trail adopter, Blue Hills volunteer, crew leader training, and our new Trail Coordinator is a fantastic nominee for this state award. Approved (J. Sazama/J. Lancour)

**6. Announcements/Adjournment**

Next chapter meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2025.

Current chapter membership is 266.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Mary Skalecki, Chapter Secretary