

SKMHTA ANNUAL CLUB MEETING MINUTES (pending approval)

Date: Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

Location: DNR Headquarters, Eagle WI

ATTENDEES (22): Devan L, President; Dawn H; Jane W; Val T; Gale S, Vice President; Amy J, Secretary; Debbie D, Fundraising Coordinator; Duane D, Trail Coordinator; Bridgette B; Trudie M; Andrea K; Margaret M; Barb L; Jill B; Amy M, Treasurer; Sherry A; Linda M; Mark G; Annette H; Bob H; Carol B; Ann U
CALL TO ORDER TIME: 10:40am by Devan L, President

Welcome, Recognition, Why Join the SKMHTA

DNR Guest Speakers, Brian, Olivia & Candy - DNR News & Camp Hosting Information

- DNR will continue upgrading footings in 2024
- Olivia Boeck is the new Park Manager, she is a horse person too!
- Snowmobile club has been clearing branches from the storm as well as DNR, but expect a lot of down/damaged branches this year. Please report to Brian via text or email, or call the DNR HQ to report trail blockages, include coordinates or map app screenshots
- There will be another Chainsaw Safety Class in June, contact DNR if interested
- Candy Wollerman is the Ranger in charge of camp hosting carol.wollermann@wisconsin.gov
 - Use the [Better Impact website](#) to sign up for hosting/volunteering
 - **Apply early**, as there is a background check required (once approved, good for 3 years)
 - Preference will be given to 2+ week stays, but shorter will be approved if available
 - Fawn R will be Horseriders Camp Host mid-May thru end of June

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (AMY J)

MOVE TO ACCEPT AS WRITTEN: Devan L

SECONDED: Gale S

TREASURER'S REPORT / 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (AMY M)

- **Current Balance:** \$22,374.01 (bank), \$82.78 (cash), **\$22,456.79** (total, \$8000 for footing costs)
- **2023 Membership Total:** 54 members
- **2023 Financial Summary:**
 - **Total Collected in 2023: \$20,691.69**
 - \$1200 collected in membership dues
 - \$3500 collected in grant monies
 - \$5839 collected in donations
 - **Total Expenses in 2023: \$20,986.90**
 - \$956.14 in Hitching Post & Bridge Repair Costs
 - \$11,794.63 in Additional Corral Materials Costs

MOVE TO ACCEPT: Barb L

SECONDED: Trudie M

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR REPORT (DEBORAH)

- **Ride for Corrals**
 - Income: Donations and Food \$796.00, Memberships \$25, 50/50 Raffle \$397.11
 - Expenses: \$211.01
 - Total Funds Raised: \$981.99

- **Fall Fundraiser**

- Income: \$17,320.47 (dinners, tack sale, raffle tickets, silent auction, etc)
- Expenses: \$4,338.43 (shirts, caterer, supplies, etc)
- Total Funds Raised: \$12,982.04
- Survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive. All liked the new raffle drawing process of assigning numbers. Suggestion to use wristbands instead of meal tickets, add trail ride, have higher priced items auctioned online as many don't plan to spend that much at the event.

TRAIL COORDINATOR REPORT (DUANE)

- **Workdays**

- Spring Cleanup at Campground (12 attendees), focused on brush trimming/cleaning
- Fall Cleanup at Campground (4.5 attendees), focused on firepits and blocked trails

- **Repairs**

- Obstacle Course Bridge Rebuild completed

- **Future To Do List**

- Ottawa and Viele hitching post repairs, add hitching posts at Ottawa lots (new and existing)
- Consider adding additional obstacles (teeter totter?)
- Continue work on "The Stairs" trail (near campground)

PROJECT UPDATES

- **Corral Footing Project** - all pre-existing corrals have been upgraded, DNR will continue to upgrade the new corrals and low/muddy high line areas in 2024
- **Corral Install Project** - 10 new 12x12 Priefert Premium corrals installed in 2023!
- **Kiosk Sponsor Plaques** - campground kiosk has been updated with sponsor recognition plaques to thank the sponsors who donated \$500+ toward the corral project since 2018

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Directors Current Positions, do the following agree to continue in position:

- Devan Lewer, President - YES
- Gale Sohns, Vice President - YES
- Amy Janecek, Secretary - YES
- Amy Muth, Treasurer - NO, Will step down for now due to life circumstances

Nominations for Vacant Positions:

- **Treasurer: Bridgette Bender-Dortch, unanimously accepted**
- **Fundraising Coordinator: Barb Linneman, unanimously accepted**
- **Trail Coordinator: vacant**
- **Member-at-Large: vacant**

SKMHTA Feedback Survey Results

Overall results very positive. A few comments about trees/branches down, dirty fire pits. Most negative comments were in regards to dirty or malfunctioning bathrooms/pit toilets (great reason to try to keep the camp host staffed!) Suggestions to have more signage at kiosks explaining the "one way" signs for new visitors unaware those are for snowmobiles, not horses. **More electric sites with corrals, more fun events desired!**

Equipment for Obstacle Course Upkeep

Shall the club donate towards or purchase lawn maintenance equipment? After discussion, Dawn H, who has already donated \$500 from ApDRAW for this topic, declared that ApDRAW is closing down after many years, and will use some of the funds to provide NEW (warranted) equipment to Andy A for this purpose.

Thank you Dawn for all your hard work with ApDRAW and the support of the club and local trails!!

501(c)(3) Not For Profit

Benefits to the club include increased sponsorship, donation and grant opportunities, and as a tax-exempt entity we could save hundreds, even thousands of dollars in sales tax. The club will hire an accountant to handle the necessary paperwork and taxes. This will require the existing club to disband and a new organization to be created, as the current club is well past the window for applying for 501(c)(3). We could rename to Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trails Association, to keep the website, email, etc the same. Barb L is contacting the accountant for more information and next steps to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2024 Fall Fundraiser Planning**
 - **Date: Saturday, September 14th, 2024**
 - **Theme: Live, Love, Ride**
- **2024 Projects & Goals**
 - **More fun events!** Anyone can organize a social ride or even a horse-free event! Think outside the box for ways to get together and get to know each other! We will spread the word for you even if you don't use Facebook. Contact Amy J at janecekamy@gmail.com to network!
 - **Pack The Park! June 1-2, 2024** Free Fun Weekend is the first weekend in June, with waived park fees on Saturday and Sunday. The SKMHTA is hosting a fun weekend of camping, riding and socializing! More details to come, mark your calendar and reserve your campsite now!
 - **Make Meetings Fun** look into having an educational clinic as part of the meetings. Examples include a saddle fitting clinic at West 20, having an equine professional speak about a topic, etc
 - **Fundraising Focus** should be on more corrals, signage for the Obstacle Course
- **Meeting Dates:** TBD, will try to support sponsor locations more often
- **Midwest Horse Fair Booth:** volunteers needed to staff booth, [SIGN UP](#)

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- **Trail Passes** - DNR provided info for club to potentially sell trail passes as a fundraising event
- **Permanent Highlines** - DNR feedback is they were not safe in the past, willing to consider new options
- **Electric Sites** - per the DNR, the state of WI is currently capped, but potential legislature is under review to allow a higher percentage of electric campsites than current limits, will monitor
- **Waukesha Public Library** - Amy J proposed \$300 donation as a thank you for GlowForge access
 - MOVE TO ACCEPT: Bridgette B
 - SECONDED: Trudie M
- **Water Sources on Trail** - reminder of Wilton Rd/Mueller Homestead water supply, Don Dane, DNR mentioned there used to be a spring near the Hwy 12/LaGrange trailhead for watering horses, no attendees present were aware of such a watering spot

Coming events:

Rock Co Tack Swap - March 2, Johnstown Community Center
Washington Co 4H Tack Sale - March 3rd, Washington Co Fairgrounds
SMILES Tack Sale - March 16-17th, SMILES Facility in Darien, WI
Midwest Horse Fair - April 19-21st - SKMHTA booth C43 in the Coliseum

MOVE TO ADJOURN: 12:40 pm by Devan L

SECONDED: Debbie D