



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Mercer Community Center

2648W Margaret Street, Mercer, Wisconsin

1. **Call to order** at 5:06 p.m. by president Mike Ondresky. In attendance: board members John Bates, Karen Hagemann, Diane O’Krongly, Mike Ondresky, Teresa Schmidt, Bob Traczyk; ICORE members and guests Hank and Jan Carstens, Bethany Thomas, Denise Schmitz-Enking, Joel Enking, Amy Nosal, Hedda Patzke, Gary Patzke, Joe Kravetz, Beth Wetzler, Shari Younger, Martha Pierpont, Mike Shouldice, Terry Daulton, and Jeff Wilson.
2. **Approval of minutes** from the 2017 Annual Meeting - moved by Bates, second by Fauerbach to approve as presented. Approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer’s report** - presented by Bob Traczyk, showing a checking balance as of 9/30/2018 of \$7964.78 with a net income for the 2017-2018 fiscal year of \$5257.16. Of that, \$5189.16 is earmarked for the Hurley area non-motorized trail from donations and fundraising event proceeds. Motion by Bates, second by Hagemann to accept the treasurer’s report. Approved unanimously.
4. **Membership update** - Ondresky recently sent out a membership letter to approximately 80 families.
5. **Election of board members** - The three board members at large -- Fauerbach, Hagemann, and O’Krongly -- are nominated to serve additional 2-year terms on

the board. Move to close nominations by Carstens, second by Bates. Approved unanimously.

6. **Committee reports**

a. **Events committee** - Report from committee chair Bates, Hagemann, and others with a review of the 2017/2018 events. They also mentioned the Turtle River Pursuit on February 9-10, 2019, and the scheduled program with John Magnuson, expert on lake ice, on February 9 at the Mercer Library.

b. **Trails committee** - Report from committee chair Fauerbach:

- i. A lot of time and energy has been spent this year on promoting and improving the Hurley Non-Motorized trail. There are existing plans for the trailhead and a Highway 51 crossing. The City of Hurley agreed to a temporary trail route through downtown Hurley, and a sign at the trailhead location. There were two workdays at the trailhead this year to plant trees and shrubs, add picnic tables, and improve the site. There was a fundraiser and trail ride on July 14.
- ii. ICORE also had a booth at the Iron County Fair this summer, and we have bumper stickers, brochures, and a banner so we are “booth ready” for future events.
- iii. O’Krongly discussed the September workday at Corrigan’s Lookout with students from Hurley School and ICORE members. Sixteen kids and about 13 volunteers took part, and the county forestry department was very helpful in identifying the route for the new trail, providing signage, and providing large rocks to block the new trail from ATVs. On the day before, Bethany Thomas from the North Country Trail came and demonstrated use of the tools to the students, and NCT loaned tools to ICORE for the event. The new trail is a great improvement over the old, muddy trail.

- iv. Fauerbach also reported on the new trail connecting the Mercer bike trail to Manitowish Waters. ICORE was not a participant in that project but it is a great benefit to the Mercer trail.
 - v. Future plans: Establishing a parking lot at the Hurley trailhead, potential information kiosks and access to the Montreal River. Fauerbach will be on an upcoming agenda for the City of Hurley to discuss the parking lot, and to discuss the cost of purchasing additional land from the railroad for the trailhead and trail. This would possibly include a right-of-way that is 100 feet wide and about 5 miles long. Fauerbach intends to start a capital fund and campaign for that purchase, and explore grants that may assist in that effort. They may kick off this campaign with a fundraising event at Sharon's Coffee Company in Hurley in early December.
 - vi. Motion from John Bates, second by Diane O'Krongly to approve \$850 expenditure for the parking lot at the Hurley trailhead.
Approved unanimously.
 - vii. The Schaumberg County Park snowshoe trails are in need of some basic maintenance, and Traczyk suggested that this could be a good location for a 2019 trail project for ICORE. This is a short trail and could probably be completed relatively quickly. The ICORE board will discuss this at their next meeting.
 - viii. The North Country Trail also welcomes organizations who are willing to adopt a section of the NCT. Bethany Thomas talked about the requirements for picking up sticks, opening the brush to the trail standard 4' by 8' area, reporting chainsaw needs, etc. We could adopt a 1 to 1.5 mile section of NCT. The ICORE board will discuss this at their next meeting.
- c. **Public relations** - Amy Nosal gave a written report of the 2018 activities of this committee and suggested steps for 2019. She and Rita Franzoi presented a letter to the ICORE board indicating that they are stepping down as the chairs of this committee, but will continue to work as

professional partners with ICORE when it's appropriate. She suggested that the county forestry department has also been a great partner on previous projects but they could be brought to the table on many more issues and activities.

- d. **Social media** - Schmidt reported that ICORE has a website, Facebook page (166 likes), Meetup ("Iron County Silent Sports" - 202 members), and Instagram account (50 followers, but we've done almost no posts yet). We are always looking for articles and photos of ICORE events and of general silent sports activities, and would welcome volunteers to submit information or assist with any of these platforms.

7. **Open comment** -

- a. Pierpont talked about a county-wide and/or TFF area silent sports plan. She would like to see a committee formed around that topic. Daulton added that the TFFTL Association has also had discussions around this topic, and has been following the DNR's progress towards developing a new planning process. She would like to see a ready-made list of places that the community would like to see developed into silent sports opportunities, so that this information could be presented to the DNR as part of their planning process. Daulton would like to participate in a committee on this topic. She suggested sending out a Doodle poll to set a date for an initial meeting, and inviting ICORE, TFFTL association members, and possibly DNR staff. In the past, the DNR has included a "citizen advisory group" as part of its planning, and if that is still part of their new planning process this could be a good (As a side note, there is a separate group that is looking at water levels in the TFF, and they may be interested in having ICORE as a part of that.) Daulton said that she would like it if ICORE would take the lead on forming this ad hoc committee.
- b. Ondresky reported that as a board we decided to offer volunteer support with skier assist to the Turtle River Pursuit on February 9-10. This will

require several volunteers to work outdoors to assist racers, so mark your calendar and plan to help.

8. Motion to adjourn from Bates at 6:13pm. The group moved on to a potluck dinner and a presentation with Mike Beno from *Our Wisconsin* magazine.

Minutes submitted by Teresa Schmidt, secretary.