

ICORE Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, October 20, 2020  
Online via GoToMeeting

1. Called to order by ICORE president Mike Ondresky at 6:00 p.m.: In attendance: Teresa Schmidt, Bob Traczyk, Meta Cooky Brandt, Jim Brandt, Ian Shackelford, John Bates, Andrew Grafelman, Amy Nosal, Mike Shouldice, Mike Ondresky, Gail Ondresky, Jenna Malinowski, Charlie Zinsmaster, Diane O’Krongly, Karen Hagemann, Brian Bremer, Martha Pierpont, Hedda Patzke.
2. Motion to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes by Bates, Traczyk, approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer report: Traczyk presented a report showing a net income of \$13,692.61 for 2019-2020. Account balances as of 9/30/2020: checking - \$17,932 Edward Jones CD - \$32,071. Of that, \$44,968 is earmarked for the Hurley bike trail fund. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report was made by Hagemann, second by Bates. Passed unanimously.
4. Membership update: Traczyk sent out 77 membership letters last week. Members can renew by mailing in a check or by using Paypal on our website - \$25 single, \$35 family, associate/business membership \$25. We’ve had more than 70 members in recent years.
5. 2019/2020 Activity reports:
  - a. 2020 ICORE events - We had 20+ events planned, but due to the pandemic only held 2 events: a paddle with Jim Bokern from the MW Historical Society and a bike trip in August.
  - b. Iron County Trail adoptions:
    - i. Bates reported that he spoke to the DNR about adopting Frog Lake State Natural Area and Island Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area, both of which have access via old roads that we are now responsible for keeping clear.
    - ii. Northwoods Land Trust purchased the Sack Lake Hemlocks in December 2019, another exceptional site in Iron County. This site is open to the public, but you may have to cross some MFL property to get to it and there are no established trails on the property.
    - iii. O’Krongly reported that ICORE has continued maintenance on the Deadhorse and Hidden Rivers trail in the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area. When we are on those trails, we should keep an eye out for invasive species. Leafy spurge has been documented in the area. The property manager, Beth Feind, has been very responsive to requests for maintenance and has helped keep the trails in good condition. Feind plans to put a sign for the Hidden Rivers trail on Popko Circle next summer and update the signage and the booklet for the TFSWA Auto Tour if she has funding to do that.
    - iv. Schmidt updated the group on the CCC trail
  - c. Hurley Nonmotorized Trail: In January we received a grant from GRHF for land purchase and trailhead improvements. We had a snowshoe hike on the trail route last winter. In summer - new parking area, remove coal scale, wood chips on river trail, dog waste station, tree and flower planting, light poles installed with

solar lights coming soon. Submitted a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Foundation grant and have been notified that they have tentatively been selected for full funding, but there are a few things to finalize with the DNR or with the state legislature Joint Finance Committee before the funding could go through. Latest challenge is to get the railroad to communicate with us about the purchase of land, and the committee met this week with Hurley city attorney Ray O'Dea to strategize.

- d. Other Iron County Trail updates:
  - i. Trail from Manitowish to Sandy Beach - Bates has made several contacts with the DNR since August 2019, but no progress to date. He sent another email today requesting a meeting. It is a snowmobile trail in the winter but gated in the summer.
  - ii. ICORE also adopted the Hurley School Forest trail - it's a short trail, and Shackelford adopted it in our name.
  - iii. Zinsmaster reported that they are doing fall work on the Uller Trail. Some new volunteers have cleared the east and west ends of the trail, and the Penokee Rangers are working on the more remote areas of the trail. The Montreal trail is about 90% cleared for the year, and they are working with a new landowner there to reroute the trail around his property. They are expecting a large number of trail users this winter, and are setting up for more grooming and more people.
  - iv. MECCA Trail is planning their winter events. No Toy Drive with the Fire/EMS groups this year, uncertain about the candlelight ski. New event: the MECCA Trails Winterfest, a virtual ski and snowshoe event from Dec 19 to Feb 21; will include the TR Pursuit route, a Flowage 15k freestyle, and the Clarie d'Loon 5k, Mercer springs snowshoe tour. They've also added 2 miles of snowshoe trails this year. They will be getting publicity out about the event beginning in November. Also planning for more trail use this year. DNR has helped widen the trails this year, All trails will be groomed for a skate lane and track set this year. Probably not opening until around December 1. They are also putting a few thousand dollars more into the "MECCA Experience" fund to help get kids, families, and seniors on the MECCA trails.
  - v. Mike Shouldice brought up the Mercer bike trail - can we connect the trail from Snow's to Carow Park and relocate the trailhead to the park? ICORE could collaborate with the town, park board, and chamber on this project. The GRHF would be willing to work with any of those entities to apply for GRHF funding. A plan needs to be created and a lot of community buy-in needs to happen for this to move forward. The proposed route would be from the Chamber office, down Harper Street, to Margaret Street, to Lakeview, to Library, to Lakeshore Drive. No trail construction necessary, just moving the sign, bike racks, and picnic tables. GRHF funding criteria - matching money (maybe leftover Lupine Junefest) and collaboration.

Just a few weeks left in the GRHF grant application period, and they are on an annual cycle now.

- e. Paddle, bike, ski and other groups:
  - i. Mixed Paddlers had about 10 events with social distancing and masks. Very well attended, considering the circumstances. Used Meetup to post events.
  - ii. Loony Paddlers led by Kit Bogenschneider did meet every week, but did not use Meetup
  - iii. Bike group did meet this year but did not use Meetup because they wanted to keep their group small this year.
  - iv. Hiking/snowshoeing group on Thursdays started in September, and they are using Meetup to announce events.
- 6. Open comment:
  - a. Hagemann asked about the election of officers for ICORE. All board members are due for election in 2021. At that time we will elect some board members for 1-year terms and some for 2-year terms so we can stagger the board's membership.
  - b. Jenna Malinowski reported that she was at Deadhorse looking at a reroute for the southernmost portion of the trail because there have been water issues all summer. She is looking at applying for some funding for trail improvements, so if ICORE has any suggestions for improvements on the trail she would love to hear them. O'Krongly suggested developing a loop route for snowshoeing. She usually creates one every winter on her own.
  - c. Shackelford reported that we added some trail maps to our website, so we're up to 27 trails marked and mapped.
  - d. Ondresky reported that the board will discuss our 2021 events plan at their next meeting.
- 7. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.