

Ice Age Trail Alliance
Washington/Ozaukee Chapter
Ranger's Office, Pike Lake Unit – Kettle Moraine State Forest
Minutes, March 3, 2015

Tom Alberg, Joe Aldstadt, Lisa DeLaney, Mike Fischer, Doug Galaszewski, Shirley Miller, Judy Rose, Craig Sanford, Bob Stodola, and Rob Wessberg were in attendance. Joe began the business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Project RED (Riverine Early Detection): Joe presented information from Becky Wadleigh of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust concerning invasive aquatic species. Becky is organizing a one-day workshop to learn about aquatic invasives – ecosystem impact with both classroom and field components to the workshop. Rod & Joe have kayaks we could use for the outdoor “on water” part. Possible dates: June 20; July 11, 12, 18, or 19; August 1 or 2. Joe will coordinate with Becky.

Secretary's report: Judy distributed draft minutes from the February chapter meeting for review. Doug moved to approve the minutes, Tom seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Bob gave the following report: the present balance is \$1,848.21. Judy moved to accept the report, Craig seconded, motion carried.

Trail Work Project Updates:

- A. South West Bend Segment – we discussed several alternatives for the camping site, including the GSA property, Ridge Run County Park, and Sunburst.
- B. Park Avenue entrance re-route – Pending IATA approval of the re-route; Tiffany Shram, the GIS Specialist at the Alliance, needs exact coordinates for the re-route for the DNR – Joe will coordinate with Tiffany to arrange a walk-through.
- C. South Holy Hill Logging – Rob said that contractually the loggers will need to repair the trail damage. Work should be done by our May 26th workday – we will do additional repairs as needed. The DNR is also building a horse trail between Emerald Dr & Donegal Rd that we may be able to share to get hikers off the road. Rob may also put in a kiosk by the new Hwy K/Q parking lot – it's still “in the works”.

Hikes:

A. Recent hikes:

Saturday, Feb 14th, “Candlelight Hike, Ski, & Snowshoe” event at Pike Lake – Rob showed a short video; ~350 attended the very cold event. Doug got a \$500 donation from Kohl's that will be used to support the Saunters Program. Note: brochures in the Tool Shed were AWOL, so we need to insure that we have them available for future events!

B. Upcoming hikes:

- March 28th at 1:00 pm is our first guided hike of the year; Craig will lead, Joe will sweep. No need for shuttles as it is out & back from Culver's on Hwy 33. Joe will also have brochures ready for the Spring Hikes to post on FaceBook and our kiosks, etc.
- Trail Dog Running has a race at North West Bend on Saturday March 14th N West Bend segment; Joe & Mike will do a "sweep" prior to the race.

State/Regional News:

- A. Crew Leader Retreat in late February may have chainsaw training; the March chain saw training session is full.
- B. Joe discussed the recently published *Strategic Plan*. He suggested discussing an initiative or two from the *Plan* at each meeting this year. For example, one of the goals is to form partnerships with neighboring like-minded groups – Joe will attend the OWLT "kick-off" meeting in late March to discuss possible joint workdays this year.
- C. "Hike the Hill" Visit: Rod Bartlow again ventured to Washington to advocate for the IATA; he reported (by e-mail) that most legislators that he spoke with were supportive of re-authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. However the IAT request was not included in the budget, so now it will be an uphill battle for this year's appropriation. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund is threatened and the IATA operating grant was eliminated. We need to have some "talking points" with legislators to amend this. Budget hearing will be in the second half of March.
- D. Jamie Fisher at the Alliance will have training on the new web site this month. Our Webmaster Doug will attend on 3/25.

Other Business:

- A. Leah Bradley e-mailed that we had one completion and four new signups for the hiking program.
- B. Sharon Dziengel asked for Trail Angels to volunteer for shuttles, water caches, etc.
- C. Doug suggested getting more info on invasive species beyond garlic mustard (as well as water invasives through RED).
- D. Joe will confirm with Sue about the specific place at Holy Hill for our next meeting.

Doug moved to adjourn, Lisa seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.