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# GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

November 09, 2017, 10:00am

Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitors Center – Meeting Room

3206 MN-61, Two Harbors, MN 55616



\*meeting notes and documents will be posted at: [www.ardc.org/ggta](http://www.ardc.org/ggta)

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## WELCOME

1. Welcome & Introductions- In attendance: Tom Peterson (President), Bruce Martinson (Vice-President), Bill Blank (Board), Dan Cruikshank (Board), Ginny Storlie (Cook Co. Commissioner), Pete Walsh (Lake Co. Commissioner), Kevin Johnson (MnDNR), Charlie Moore (ARDC), and Michelle Pierson (Executive Director). Meeting called to order at 10:05am

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. President/Vice President's Report – President Tom Peterson welcomed meeting attendees and spoke about his letter in the Fall Newsletter. Peterson called for a motion to approve the 09.14.2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion by Bill Blank/Bruce Martinson. Carries unanimously.
2. Executive Director's Report
  - Bonding and LCCMR updates –
    - The LCCMR group held hearings and looked over and graded applications. The DNR's request of \$5M for trails in MN was awarded \$2.5M. The projects included in the DNR's application were prioritized, and the Gitchi project in Tofte was DNR's 2<sup>nd</sup> priority. It is noted that some of the \$2.5M will be dedicated to the 1.1 mile gap in trail in Tofte.
    - On October 24, 2017 Bill Blank, Ginny Storlie, and Michelle Pierson were joined by Scott Harrison, Judy Erickson, and Senator Bakk and Representative Ecklund to discuss what the GGTA is advocating for 2018 Bonding consideration. The meeting was held at Lutsen and we are grateful for the opportunity to engage our legislators for about 1.5 hours about the trail. We distributed a handout outlining our \$3M ask for projects in both Lake and Cook Counties. Projects that could receive these funds include the Ski Hill Road – Lutsen Town Center segment of trail (for engineering, design, and construction), for bridge modifications over Silver Creek ( a project that MnDOT has in the STIP for 2020), and for engineering and design funds for two additional segments (Cutface Creek to Cascade River State Park, and Silver Bay to Tettegouche State Park).
      - M. Pierson developed Thank You cards for which she sought GGTA Board approval. Cards were mailed 11/14/2017.
  - Give MN preparations – GTMD is November 16<sup>th</sup> –
    - at the time of the meeting we'd already had one donation via GiveMN (Thanks, Sandbo Family!). As of 8:35am on 11/16 we have now had 4 membership renewals totaling \$125. Here's hoping we have a good day of donations and memberships via GiveMN. Pierson will mail out totals following the event.

- Two Harbors Bike Route Planning
  - Next meeting to be held on November 28, 2017, in Two Harbors, from 10:30 to noon. M. Pierson, D. Cruikshank, and M. Rudningen usually attend these meetings.
- Newsletter
  - Tom, Mark and Michelle put the newsletter together. Thanks to Anne McKinsey for a final edit job. We're still seeking a board member who'd like to take over these responsibilities.
  - Newsletter was finished and posted to our [www.ggta.org](http://www.ggta.org) website on 11/6. You may access it here: <http://www.ggta.org/cked/files/GGTA%20Fall%202017%20newsletter-FINAL.pdf>
  - Newsletter was sent to ProPrint on 11/7. Should be in the mail soon!
- Email blast
  - M. Pierson sent an email blast to former Annual Ride participants, and to email addresses in our membership list on 11/15 to note Give to the Max Day and to link to our online copy of the fall newsletter. Sent to 500+ recipients.
- Website
  - Web email recipients. With changes to our board roles, I will reach out to Sandy at Two Dogs to see if she can redirect some of our email addresses so the correct folks receive emails sent through our [www.ggta.org](http://www.ggta.org) website. Find the email recipient list attached. Please reply if you'd like your address added/removed from any of our distribution lists.
- Ads
  - MnTrails Magazine once again offered us a \$100 'Save the Date' ad in their winter issue. A sample of this page was passed around at the meeting.
  - Lake Superior Magazine inquired if we'd like to advertise in the directory portion of their Travel Guide and Recreation guide. For these two appearances, it would cost us \$472. Pierson will forward email communications between Paul Hayden from LSM and ask that board members give an up or down vote as to whether or not we should pursue this form of advertising. GGST article in Lake Superior Magazine
  - The GGTA got a 'shout out' in the November 2017 edition of the Lake Superior Magazine. I've scanned the article and will send it out as an attachment with these minutes.
  - Mentioned that we should search GGST on TripAdvisor – having searchable reviews may bring more out of town folks to the trail.
- GGTA Trailer
  - At the last meeting, Chad Pierson was asked to call around regarding pull-behind trailer options for GGTA ride and other supplies.
  - Widdes in Esko has two trailers... a 6x10 front face with double back doors for \$2,795 new. Widdes could order a 6x14 v-frong with an RV side door and ramp back door for \$3,695.
  - Chad Pierson found a listing from a trailer sales business in Lacrosse, WI for considerably lower prices, longer distance to travel to pick up though
  - Rod Garver offered some advice for length (6x14 is as big as we'd want to get...longer/bigger than that requires hook up brakes) and found a horse

trailer for sale on Craigslist locally. Michelle Pierson inquired about the horse trailer but did not get a response from the seller.

- Pete Walsh offered to look into a potential trailer, but was not able to find one.
- It was mentioned that as a 501c3 that we do not have to pay sales tax on a purchase, but will need to pay licensing/taxes.
- Also mentioned that we should look for a trailer under 4,000lbs to permit SUVs to tow it.
- One location brought up to inquire is the State's surplus property location in Arden Hills
- At this point, please keep your eye out for good used trailers for sale. Should we find one, we will conduct a vote via email to approve the purchase.
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### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Chad Pierson was unable to attend the meeting but sent along the September 15-November 8<sup>th</sup> Report of the Treasury. Find it attached. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Bill Blank/Bruce Martinson. Carries unanimously.

### 4. Trail Coordinator's Report

- Mark Rudningen was unable to attend. Kevin Johnson attended in his place. Thank you, Kevin, for your support and attendance. Mark sent on some updates regarding several projects:
  - Culvert work at Cobblestone Resort- postponed until next spring due to the heavy rains this fall
  - SRF Consulting is actively working on the Grand Marais to Cutface Segment. The wetland delineation portion of the project is complete.
  - Karvakko Consulting is working on the Tofte segment. The 2018 construction season will focus on the NE portion of the trail from the current terminus to the Commercial Fishing Museum.
  - MnDNR was provided with several bike repair stations. One has been set up at the Beaver Bay wayside. Another new unit is located in the park at Temperance River State Park. Gooseberry and Splitrock each have a station as well.
  - West Road project is looking very good—contractor has completed all major work.
  - MnDOT has finished all major work on the Beaver River Bridge. The painting of the bottom of the bridge will happen next spring, in addition to grass seeding along the trail.
  - The new wayside parking area at Caribou River is now open. The parking area has been greatly expanded. There is a new vault toilet facility. There has been a bicycle rack installed. Noted that the GGTA could write a letter requesting signage on HWY 61 to alert motorists about the wayside as its location on a curve still presents danger, even with the new turn lane.

### 5. ARDC Report

- Charlie Moore presented a collaboration project conducted by ARDC and MnDOT. Lisa Austin and Moore drove the expanse between Two Harbors and the Canada Border and physically measured the shoulder width at each change with a rule, and then marked the width, noted any rumble strips, guard rails, some conditions in a collector application on an ipad. ARDC will work with GGTA on a map format deliverable. Moore passed around a copy of the USBR41 map as a potential style. ARDC may work to develop a series of maps that clearly show the shoulder width and may note the alternate routes presented by GGTA members for ways to avoid potentially dangerous areas on USBR41.

- ARDC also updated some of the information on the GGTA's interactive map tour of the trail to show the closed gap in Beaver Bay.

6. Other Business

- Dan Cruikshank noted that planning is in initial stages for Spokengears 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Yard Sale. The shop is willing to have the GGTA represented as a donation beneficiary. The GGTA applauds this and will commit to volunteer on the day's event, and on the planning committee. Last year the GGTA received \$1000 in donations from the inaugural event.
- Cruikshank also noted that work looks promising with the Lake County Mountain Bike project in the Beaver Bay/Splitrock Ridge area.

**NEXT MEETING:** Date: January 11, 2018, 10am      Location: (TBD)\_\_\_\_\_