

MECCA Trails Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 5 PM at Chalet

Roll Call: Norm McKindles, Mike Shouldice, Tim Lutgen, Rodney Silvis, Diane O’Krongly, Jerry Leiterman, Jon Olsen, Don Dugan

Minutes 8/5/25 meeting: Motion to approve: McKindles/Olsen, motion carried

Treasurers Report: Brief discussion of monthly donations, income and expenses. Motion to approve: O’Krongly / Lutgen, motion carried.

Comment: Jerry thanked the board and membership volunteers for their efforts over the past year. Significant projects were completed along with the normal clubs’ activities.

Old Business: DNR has repaired most of the damage from last year’s logging activities. efforts. The DNR is currently taking public comment on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage Scenic Waters, visit the DNR’s website to view the draft master plan and comment. DNR indicated the land use agreement between MECCA and DNR will be finalized this coming winter.

Committee Reports

Facilities: Diane will schedule a work bee to split firewood and clean the chalet. A chimney cleaning will be completed in December (\$375). Fluid in the chalet hydronic system will be changed to increase the freeze and burst temperatures.

Finance: The FY 2025-26 budget was discussed. Motion to approve by McKindles / Silvis, motion carried. Significant issues with the new budget are the increase in insurance and the projected Winterfest revenue decrease. It was suggested that a bare bone budget should be developed to understand the basic cost of running the MECCA organization. Jon and Jerry will complete. It was strongly suggested members should continue to search for and apply for grant opportunities for the organization. A donor recognition sign was included in the FY 25-26 budget.

Membership: Annual memberships are due to members planning on voting at meetings.

Outreach: Sponsor outreach was discussed. A five-year bike trail maintenance agreement will be presented to the Mercer Park Board in October.

Equipment and Trails: The JD Gator will be scheduled to be taken into Lakeland Lawn and Equipment to repair antifreeze leak. The Wolf Loop changes to be more inviting to novice skiers and minimizing drifting snow will occur the fall. Re-routing, leveling trail tread and straightening a hill are scheduled. Iron County Forestry and Parks may be able to assist with dozer work this fall or next spring. New equipment building hoist hooks to be investigated to determine weight limits.

Summer Activity Ad Hoc Committee: A 9-hole disc golf course is still under consideration. Norm and Don visited a course in Minocqua. The planning process is underway; property owners need to be contacted to obtain permission. The goal is to have a plan created by spring 2026.

Winterfest: The Gogebic Range Health Foundation will be our collaboration partner along with the Mercer Chamber of Commerce as a major sponsor. The ski registration system should be live by October 1.

New Business: Election of officers – Jerry Leiterman – President; Norm McKindles – Vice President; Jon Olsen – Treasurer; Secretary – not filled; Board Members – Don Dugan, Bernie Landgreck, Tim Lutgen, Diane O’Krongly, Rodney Silvis. Review of membership and daily trail fees not discussed, moved to next meeting.

Adjournment 6:20 pm

Minutes recorded by Mike Shouldice