

IONIA HORSE TRAILS ASSOCIATION BY LAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the IONIA HORSE TRAILS ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. PRINCIPLE OFFICE

The principle office of the Association shall be the address of the park manager of Ionia State Recreation Area. The principle office shall be the repository of all records, files, papers and documents pertaining to the business of the Association.

The registered office of the corporation shall be the home address of the current treasurer of the association. It must be located in the State of Michigan as required by the Michigan Business Corporation Act. The Board of Directors may change the principle office from time to time.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE AND POWERS

The IONIA HORSE TRAILS ASSOCIATION has been organized for the following purposes.

1. To preserve, protect, improve and expand the horseman's campground and the horse trail network in the Ionia State Recreation Area.
2. To develop and maintain good communication and a working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, and to assist them in their efforts to maintain adequate horse campgrounds and riding trails.
3. To promote horse riding, packing, camping and other recreational horse activities.
4. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in ARTICLE III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on: A – by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code; or B- by an organization to which contributions are deductible under section 170c2 of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose.

5. Assistance can be given by the Association through seminars, consultation service, correspondence and telephone contact, dissemination of ideas through a newsletter, matching grants, and by providing a forum for the discussion of matters of common interest by and between its members and other similar organizations.
6. The Association may participate in a network or in cooperation with regional and national organizations with similar purposes
7. In furtherance of the purposes described herein, but not in the limitation thereof, the Association shall have the power to accept grants, gifts, and donations, to collect and disseminate statistics and other information, to conduct research, to engage in various fund raising activities, to conduct promotional activities, including advertising and publicity in or by any suitable manner or media, and to hold such property as is necessary to accomplish its purpose.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP, DUES, FISCAL YEAR

1. Membership

- a. Membership is open to any individual who is eighteen years or older and to any family including dependents under the age of eighteen, who shall support the goals and purposes of the IONIA HORSE TRAILS ASSOCIATION, and who shall complete an application and pay the annual dues as set by the Board of Directors of the Association.
- b. Life time memberships and group memberships may be granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- c. Any member may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the members present at any annual meeting or at any special meeting of the members called for that purpose, for conduct deemed prejudicial to the Association, provided written notice (email constitutes written notice) of the accusations against him and shall have been given an opportunity to produce his witnesses, and to be heard at the meeting at which such vote is taken.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1. Board of Directors

The direction of the Ionia Horse Trails Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors, who shall be in charge of all business, property, and affairs of the Association. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

2. Board Membership

The Board of Directors shall consist of at least three (3) and no more than ten (10) members elected by the general membership at the **annual election** meeting. Board members shall serve two-year terms, with half of members to be elected in even numbered years and half to be elected in odd numbered years. Any member in good standing may run for a Board position by submitting to the Board in writing (email constitutes written notice) their desire thirty (30) days prior to the **annual election** meeting.

3. Board Member Resignation

A member serving on the Board may resign at any time and a successor shall be appointed by the remaining Board members to fill the seat until the normal expiration of the term.

4. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet once a month or as deemed by the Board of Directors, and shall elect a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and membership chair **at consistent yearly intervals, at a publicized meeting**. The President, or a quorum of Board Members, may call a special meeting of the board.

5. Quorum

For the purposes of conducting business, the presence of half plus one (or half rounded up in the case of odd number of members) voting Board members shall constitute a quorum. All directors shall be notified of Board meetings no later than twenty-four (24) hours before any meeting.

6. President

The Association President shall be the principal executive officer and shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the general supervision of the business of the Association. He/She shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all meetings of the membership of the Association.

7. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall, in the absence, resignation, or incapacity of the president assume the duties of the President and shall assume all other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

8. Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of an accurate record of the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors, shall maintain a roster of all members of the Association, shall keep/maintain records of all communications, reports, and other documents relating to the business of the Association, shall monitor all correspondence and perform other duties incidental to the office as assigned by the Board of Directors.

9. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the keeping of an accurate record of all financial transactions of the Association, shall authorize and approve the

expenditure of the Association funds, present monthly reports to the Board and perform other duties incidental to the office as assigned by the Board of Directors. The treasurer may approve expenditures not to exceed one hundred (100) dollars.

10. Assistant Secretaries and Treasurers

The Board of Directors may appoint or elect such assistant secretaries or treasurers as are deemed necessary to the best interest of the Association. Such assistants shall perform the duties assigned to them by the Board of Directors, and may be required to fulfill any such conditions of these bylaws which apply to the officer to whom he/she was appointed to assist.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint such standing and special committees, as deemed necessary and useful by the Board of Directors, to carry out the purposes of the Association.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Any member may propose amendments to the bylaws provided such proposals are in writing to the Board of Directors. A committee shall be appointed to review proposals and will submit its recommendations for adoption, non-adoption, or revision within sixty (60) days of the initial referral. A proposal shall be adopted upon voting approval of a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. STANDING RULES

The Board of Directors may provide for Standing Rules to help aid in the day-to-day operation of the Association. Additions to, or modification to, any Standing Rule will not constitute a change in the bylaws of the Association, nor will any Standing Rule negate any portion of the bylaws of the Ionia Horse Trails Association. Standing Rules may be created or modified by majority vote at any meeting of the Association.

All activities of the Ionia Horse Trail Association shall conform to the provisions of the bylaws herein and applicable laws of the State of Michigan and the United States of America. Any section or provision of these bylaws found to be in conflict with any of the foregoing shall be deemed null and void, but the negation of any such sections or provision shall not affect the validity of other sections or provisions.

These bylaws were revised and accepted on the 14th of August, 2020.

Prior bylaws were approved, July 12, 2016; August 15, 2015;
Original bylaws were approved July 13, 1998.