

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: January 10, 2022

Meeting Location: Zoom meeting

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Lydia Haynes; Adam Maus

Jerry sent the guide book to Larry and will text with him to confirm that he got it.

Agenda

Dave motioned to approve the agenda as submitted by Jerry, Lydia seconded, it passed unanimously.

Minutes

Bill motioned and Dave seconded to accept the November 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Lynch Memorial

The group would like to do something to memorialize Linda Lynch's passing. She was instrumental in starting the group and very active in the projects of the group, including the depot. The group would like to decide at a later date to do something to remember her work for the group. Dave now has routing skills and would be willing to do something in wood to memorialize both Linda and Palmer.

Bill would like to know the dates Linda served on the trail board. Sarah will look through the minutes that we have.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of December 2021 balance of \$40,779.87 in the Farmers Savings Bank checking account. All 2021 trail pass vendors are paid in full. Several vendors already have, and are selling, 2022 trail passes. We got a big donation from Belgium Brewing plus more from individuals. The Fidelity account value as of 12/31/21 is \$33,230.72 for an annual increase of \$4,051.66. We have altogether \$74,010.59 (Fidelity plus checking account). 2021 was a record year for trail pass sales and income. This year trail pass has no place for us to initial the pass if we sell them. We need to discuss if and how we want to spend some of this money. Dave motioned and Sarah seconded that we accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meeting's agenda

None

Facebook

Larry Kruckman has not been able to work on the Facebook page.

DNR Topics

The DNR heavy brushed and mowed the trail between Verona and Fitchburg to widen it. The DNR is thinking about planting along this section as a sound barrier along highway 18/151 (maybe a spruce or other conifer).

DNR staff ditched mowed the entire trail.

The crew put belting on the PD bridge (the small bridge west of PD that they just re-decked).

The new mower finally arrived and they have tested it.

The city of Verona is thinking of expanding the Epic turn lane off 18/151 all the way from the highway 69 exit. This will mean that the trail will be closed next year and trail traffic rerouted through Verona.

Solar panels on the maintenance building - Blue Mounds State Park

The solar panel project on the equipment shed is still moving forward.

Snow fence by Depot

Brad said that they were putting up the snow mobile fence in front of the train depot in Ridgeway. Six inches of snow is needed, depending on the moisture content, to allow snow mobiles on the trail.

Future meetings

Dave will set up a zoom meeting in February although there is a possibility that he will not be there. Jerry would be willing to run the annual meeting online and have elections online. Most people wanted a zoom meeting, and maybe continue them until the warmer months. Bill motioned that we put off the annual meeting until we can meet in person (whenever that may be), the motion was seconded by Sarah. The motion passed unanimously. February will continue as a zoom meeting. The February meeting is February 7th so it won't conflict with Valentine's Day.

State Friends of Wisconsin meeting

Nobody from our group attended the State Friends meeting.

ATC

Based on an article that Dave sent to the group the following issues (extracted from the article) now prevail: "Dane and Iowa counties, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy filed several lawsuits to try to stop it. Two of those suits have traction right now. One, before Dane County Circuit Court Judge Jacob Frost, challenges the PSC decision on the grounds that then-PSC Chairperson Mike Huebsch had conflicts of interest. The other suit, before U.S. District Judge William Conley, claims that the line would do irreparable harm to federally protected wetlands and that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not give that factor adequate consideration in their environmental analysis of the project."

List of projects we completed in 2021

Look at the list that Jerry sent of the group's projects for 2021 to us and see if anything needs to be added or edited.

Palmer's memorial

Jerry asked if we could name the Riley parking lot after Palmer. Kevin will look into this. There is an approval process to go through. Lydia has mixed feelings about the naming of the parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary