

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: April 11, 2022

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

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

Addition to the agenda: Memorial for Linda Lynch. Bill will talk to her daughter and get back to the group. Kevin suggested a bench in front of Linda's house along the trail (in Ridgeway). Dave suggested a plaque (on the bench) talking about her involvement in group.

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the March 2022 meeting minutes. Sarah has already made the changes suggested by Jerry. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of March 2022 balance of \$40,831.64 in the Farmers Savings Bank checking account. Trail passes are selling exceptionally well. The Fidelity Account, as of the end of the fourth quarter, has \$30,318.79. Dave motioned and Sarah seconded to accept the financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill suggested a quarterly listing in the minutes of donations. Jerry suggested that we add something to the form people use when they donate saying "Do you want your donation to remain anonymous". Dave motioned that we do this, Bill seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Lydia and Adam will work on making the changes to the form.

DNR Topics

There are postings on the DNR website about how soft the trail is in certain places and asking people not to use it until it dries. It has since then dried along most of the trail. In early May the entire trail will be graded.

The expansion of the 18/151 Epic off ramp (heading west) is moving forward. Next week the part of the trail in the construction area will close and is anticipated to be opened again in the end of July (about July 20). The trail will be closed and rerouted by Verona High School (Wildcat Way), through the Epic Bridge. The detour is the same as that used for the Verona High School construction.

The DNR has ordered 2 signs to direct people to MRT parking and the depot in the Village of Ridgeway.

Operation Fresh start workers picked up eight bags of trash along the trail through Verona.

The DNR picked up the tree order from a Boscobel Nursery (blue spruces) and will plant them next to the paved section of trail in Verona to help mitigate traffic noise.

DNR staff have a meeting next week with Jeff Gorman, public works director in Mount Horeb, to discuss paths that people are cutting from their property to access the trail. They will be looking for viable, safe, and handicap accessible ways for people to access the trail. Lots of people are asking for tie-ins to the trail from various Mount Horeb neighborhoods.

Neither FMRT nor DNR has heard yet about the incentive grant.

EPIC Meeting

Epic cannot give the group a meeting room May 9th. The group decided to ask for a meeting room for one of any of the days that we have meetings scheduled throughout the summer. We discussed ways to get Epic employees to participate since Epic will not send out a meeting notice to employees. Brad suggested getting a table at the Epic Farmer's Market. This market runs May 17 through November 22, and is every Tuesday, 11-2. There is no charge for a table at the market but we need pre-approval. Brad and Bill will look into the approval process and we will try for a table before the scheduled meeting (if we get a room). We could also sell trail passes at the market. Other suggestions to promote the meeting to Epic employees included Facebook postings, a sign on the trail, notices of the meeting in the kiosks, and notice in the newspapers we use to advertise the meetings. If we get a meeting room Lydia will change the calendar. The calendar has a date at the bottom that says when they are printed. For now, Lydia will change calendar (based on the May meeting at Epic being changed to a meeting at the depot in Ridgeway) and send out a final version. People can print them and put them in the kiosks.

Facebook

No update

Website

Adam has updated the webpage including adding the following:

- Information on the closing of a section of the trail due to the 18/151 exit expansion
- An updated vendor list
- A caution about using the trail when it is wet
- He added the March minutes
- He will update calendar

Horribly Hilly

Bill has sent out two notices about volunteering for the event.

ATC

Work on the ATC line has started east of MH. It seems that the project is moving forward.

Elections to the FMRT positions

Rodney motioned that we unanimously elect the same group of people again. Lydia seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The re-elected officers are: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary.

May Meeting

The next FMRT meeting will be May 9, 2022, 5:30 at the Ridgeway depot.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary