

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: July 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; Bruce Paull; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR

Agenda Additions

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) has a bus that takes individuals on day trips on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The bus will pick people up in Dodgeville. and holds 10 people. The goals of the trip are to get people out of the house and socialize with others. Bruce suggested the depot as a destination. Dave motioned that a visit by the care bus (ADRC) be accepted, Sarah seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Bruce would like the Dodgeville and Barneveld schools to consider visiting 2 days at the depot instead of just one to reduce the number of children per visit. Bruce has already proposed 2 days (instead of just one) at the Hyde Blacksmith shop. The attendees would be 4th graders. He is not sure if it would be 2 consecutive days or 2 days far apart. He will discuss this with the schools.

Minutes

Jerry motioned and Dave seconded to accept the June 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of June 2022 balance of \$34,823.62 in the Farmers Savings Bank checking account. There was one payment to the DNR for passes. We also collected some money from pass sellers. The Fidelity account went down to \$25,169.34 (down \$8,000 this year). Sarah motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

DNR Topics

There is new blacktop on either side of the trail where 78 crosses the trail (maintenance patch).

DNR staff is getting caught up on monthly mowings, freeing staff to cut, trim and spray.

Brad and his crew have been working on bridges, mostly repairing those parts that users have complained about.

There is no update on Riley signage. If the sign is up by our October meeting, which is at the Riley Tavern, we could take a picture of the FMRT group in front of the sign for the final report. The sign is a hard foam/plastic type product. The sign will be free probably, installation and landscaping will cost us.

Kevin may have found money for a bike repair stand at the Dodgeville trailhead by the kiosk.

There is still no word from Eagle Point Solar on the solar installation at the Blue Mounds Park maintenance building.

Horribly Hilly

The Friends set up location was changed to the baseball diamond. There was good weather for the bike race, a great spot to set up, good bathrooms, etc. Bill felt we could eliminate the port-potties by the baseball diamond because of the existing bathrooms. Kevin thought the race was

down by about 400 riders from last year. There was a glitch in the route. We need to check to make sure the water at this site is potable then we wouldn't need bottled water next year. We had plenty of volunteers.

Scavenger Hunt

Lydia, Bill, Patti Albers and others helped. We had 55 people (children, parents, grandparents and volunteers). Everyone had fun. The cost was about \$100 (mostly being donated by Sarah and Linda) with supplies left over for next year. We have several mothers interested in helping with advertising for the next year.

Debrief: July 3 Open House (Bruce, Jerry, and Donna) - There were over 53 people probably due to the Ridgeway 4th of July celebration on July 3rd. There was also a suicide prevention walk group starting from the depot, and many activities in Ridgeway related to July 4th in the immediate area.

Slate Painting

A painting of the depot, done on a piece of slate from the depot roof, was part of Linda Lynch's estate and was donated to the FMRT.

Plan for September Meeting at Epic

Bill thought we should just have a regular meeting, with a brief meet and greet before the meeting, We could put signs on the trail, in kiosks, etc to advertise the meeting. At the next meeting we will talk about signage and need a draft. We will distribute the signs at the next meeting. Lydia and Sarah will make the signs, they will send them to Kevin, who will laminate them, we will put them along the trail. The signs will say something like "General public is invited to come meet the FMRT, learn about the organization and what they do". We will need the actual address of the meeting room. Sarah will send the meeting room address to the group. Bruce will share this on the Ridgeway community page once we have an announcement written up.

Depot Sunday Open House Volunteers Sign-up: We still need people to volunteer for these open houses. Potential volunteers include: August 7 (Bruce with Jerry), and Sept. 4 (Jerry and maybe Dave). Sarah needs to add these meetings in her requests to newspapers so they appear on the newspapers' events pages.

Facebook Page and Webpage - Adam sent an email to Jerry with the following: 1) someone painted graffiti on part of the Fitchburg kiosk; 2) nothing to report for the website, everything is updated including removal of the closure due to 18/151 rework information. He spent time last month helping Mark Cis with a security issue related to Mark's computer and the FMRT website.

ATC Line

The WI state Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling and found that a former utility regulator who was part of the decision making, ruling in favor of the Cardinal-Hickory line, did not have a conflict of interest due to seeking a job with one of the companies he was regulating.

August Meeting

The next FMRT meeting will be August 8, 2022, 5:30 at the Ridgeway Depot. The September meeting is at EPIC and the October meeting is at Riley Tavern.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary