

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Rodney Albers; Adam Maus; Brad Bates, DNR; Bruce Pauli; Joel Xavier

Minutes

Dave motioned and Bill seconded to accept the April 10, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of March 2023 checking account balance of \$47,014.08. The past month we have had several largish donations. We made our first payment on the port-o-potty at Riley. We've had trail pass funds come in. We picked up four new trail pass vendors, 2 in New Glarus and 2 in Fitchburg. We paid to have the water turned on at the Depot and the plumber needed to order a new part. Mikel Kelley in Mount Horeb might be interested in selling trail passes. He is a sculptor/potter who lives right on the trail on 4th Street. We have 2 new brick orders. Dave motioned that we accept the minutes as presented, Sarah seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

DNR Report

The Mount Horeb firemen are sponsoring a 5K walk/run.

Bill, Kevin and Brian Led from Skal meet. Brian wants to beautify the area along the trail near the public parking in front of the Duluth parking lot. He intends to put in perennials, non-invasive shrubs, and trees and maybe a restored prairie. He wants to burn the area. FMRT might help with pulling out plants and readying the site. Skal is closed on Monday so it was proposed that we could invite him to a meeting.

In Verona a culvert is being placed under the trail bed where the new ice rink expansion has begun. Water there used to go into a pond and spill over and wash out the trail. This will most likely remedy the situation.

The DNR went ahead and granted permission to a snow mobile club member to plant bergamot around the Riley sign. The plants are in.

DNR staff are coming on in the next 2 weeks.

DNR meet with an engineer to talk about the expansion of the Riley parking lot. The expanded lot will be the new snow mobile parking lot once the Verona part of the trail is paved.

There was a meeting to discuss the Kleevenville gravel parking lot, this may be done this year.

The Dodgeville bike repair stand, donated by the WI Friends, is ready to be installed on the existing slab.

Grading the trail will take place this week. DNR will start in Dodgeville and maybe finish the project in a long day (maybe tomorrow, May 9).

National Bike Week (June 7)

A table will be set up at the Fitchburg trail head (Cottonwood Drive) from 7-9 . Dave and Adam will represent the FMRT and sell trail passes there.

Note from Ridgeway Village

The Ridgeway Village wants the bike rack closer to their bathrooms. Jerry answered that it is the DNR's bike rack and they can do what ever they want. Brad was fine with it being moved. Brad will contact them. There was also some discussion about the parking lot, who owns it, who can park there, etc

Solar Panels on the Mt Horeb Bike Shelter

The roof on the shelter will be replaced (if the grant is approved) sometime in the next year (or few years), according to Brad. The Village spends on average \$87 per month for electricity for the shelter. There was discussion about using solar panels also to power ebikes (takes about 2 hours to recharge ebike batteries), and/or electric cars. Sarah reported that the Mount Horeb Sustainability Committee is behind the project but a decision on partial funding would have to come from the Village Board. Sarah will schedule a meeting with a solar panel company to get an idea on the cost of the project and bring this back to the FMRT.

Caboose Window repair

Dave made contact with Mike Larson and thinks they will be able to work something out but no time table has been set.

Webpage

Adam went through the pro and cons for several vendors offering online membership forms including; Zeffy, DonorBox, and MembershipWorks. Friends of Blue Mounds State Park use MembershipWorks (they are still learning it). There was discussion about what would be the benefit of getting new members, would they participate in any way? We decided to have further discussion on this next month after Adam has talked to FBMSM people about MembershipWorks. Most of the group would like to see a track record with the online membership form vendor that is approved. There was talk about the different ways we could use the data we would get (are new members interested in signing up for projects, do they want meeting agendas and/or minutes, etc).

Facebook - boosting posts

Bruce boosted one post. He was not sure which one. The information about ordering bricks was confusing for some.

Trail clean up grants (\$250)

This grant can be submitted anytime (no deadline on this). The grant submission needs to include how many people will be expect to show up. Rodney asked if the money could go to the Skal individual who wants to improve the trail verge near the Duluth parking lot.

Tourism in Dane County Grant

This proposal is due Friday. Bruce offered to do it by then and is proposing textured concrete on the ramp from the trail up to the Depot to make it easier for handicapped people. Bruce will talk to the Village of Ridgeway to see if this ideas synchs with what the village is planning to have done. Another idea is new windows on the caboose. We would need a bid for this.

Scheduling People to work on Events

There is no additional clean up needed at the depot so no people needed.

We don't need extra people for when the school kids are coming (we have 3 people who are volunteering). Now the schools want kids to be in Ridgeway all day. We think they will be at the Depot about hour and half.

- June 4 - First Depot open house, Jerry will be there

- June 7, National Bike Week, Dave and Adam will represent the FMRT at the table from 7am to 9am.

- June 17, Horribly Hilly - FMRT volunteers are Bill, Dave, Jerry, Rodney, Patty, Carol Clinton
- July 1 - Scavenger Hunt; Sarah, Patty, Carol
- July 2 Second Open house - Jerry, Joel, Bruce
- August 6, Third Open House - People need to look at their calendars for this
- September 3 - Fourth Open House - Jerry

Nelson Dewey Chapter of the Revolutionary Veterans

This group wants someone from the FMRT to give a talk on the history of the trail for the group. Rodney asked if we wanted to invite them to our open hoses to learn a little about the history. We do have a history of the depot in our archives. Jerry will look into it. Bill thought there was something that Palmer had put together. We could also say we are not prepared to do a talk like this.

Request for Adopt a Trail

The Allen Leopold volunteer crew want to adopt the paved section of the trail from Fitchburg down to old PB. (thought they could repair benches, pick up trash, etc). What they do will depend on their skill level.

Next Meeting

The next FMRT meeting will be June 12, 2023 at the Ridgeway Depot. The meeting will start at at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary