

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: October 12, 2020

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Paul Petzold, Eagle Scout; Jess Bernstein; Lydia Haynes; Linda McMeen; Kevin Svenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the September 2020 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of September balance of \$27,052.97 in the Farmers Savings Bank account. We received memorials donated in Palmers name, right now we have \$1,325. Bill sent thank you notes to all that donated in Palmer's name. There is also a brick request in Palmer's name that Bill has not yet received. The Fidelity account has \$25,214.12 as of the end of 2020. The investment was first made in 2013 when \$12,500 was invested. Dave motioned that we accept the report, Sarah seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meetings agenda

None

DNR Topics

There is lots of traffic on the trail.

Staff have been working on bridge repair. They are now are replacing secondary problem bridge boards and have started ditch mowing.

The Fitchrona bridge bid winner has withdrawn their bid due to the high price of lumber and the cost of redirecting traffic under the bridge (they couldn't meet the price they had proposed). The DNR is going to another bid. This bidder proposes putting a structure under the bridge to work from so they will not have to redirect traffic.

The bridges around Riley were going to be cemented instead of redecked. The DNR has put this project on hold.

Stewardship grant money has been used to renovate all kiosks along the trail except for the Riley kiosk (which does not need renovation), so we need a new project. Bill asked if the grant would cover signage ("Welcome to the Military Ridge Trail", etc), Kevin suggested Riley as good place for the first sign and he will get an estimate on the sign cost. It was suggested that a welcome sign could be located in all three main parking lots. Brad said signage is covered by the grant. Dave suggested extending the asphalt/pavement of the trail (especially where Epic bicyclists get onto the trail), Brad clarified where the Epic bicyclists get on the trail. Brad said blacktopping the trail wouldn't happen until the City of Verona, the Verona school district and others come to an agreement on this (the city of Verona already has money set aside to pay for this). The group talked about asking Epic to pay for part of the cost of black topping. Jess said that the info@epic.com email address would forward the request to the appropriate Epic person. Dave motioned to move forward with welcome signage at the various parking lots as the 2021 stewardship project with Jerry signing the grant, Lydia seconded it, the motion passed unanimously. The grant has to be in by November 15.

Jerry is working on QR codes. These enable users to access information from the trail guide book about specific sites along the trail (ex. glade mallows on the trail edge). Users hold their phone up to a marker on the trail and the information is downloaded.

Eagle Scouts Project Report

Paul Petzold and others, for Paul's eagle scout project, worked on the Himsel kiosk (located about 1/2 mile west of Town Hall Road). Scouts replaced part of the roof plywood, replaced all the shingles, painted the whole shelter, replaced the benches, spread gravel under the shelter, and cleared out the vegetation around the rock outcropping in back of the shelter. The total cost of materials was \$399.99. Dave motioned that the FMRT cover the entire cost, Bill seconded it. FMRT previously approved funding 50% of the materials up to \$400. DNR said we don't owe them any money for the work they did. The motion passed unanimously. Paul will make up an invoice and send it to Bill (Brad pointed out that he could use the material take off that Paul sent to the DNR). The reimbursement will be to Paul himself. Bill asked for some pictures that Paul may have of the group working on the project for our website. Sarah will send a letter of thanks to Paul. The DNR is working on a replacement plaque to put up.

Closing Depot

The plumber has drained pipes and turned off power to the water heater. Jerry closed storm windows, turned off circuit breakers to the outside power, and removed all liquid cleaning products and sanitizers. The door to the caboose was open again when Jerry went there. Jerry went to lock it and there was a person in there (10/7) taking pictures (he misread the sign and thought the depot was open to the public that day). Brad will contact the snow mobile group about putting up snow fence.

Depot Gutters

Rodney has estimate requests out to 4 contractors. A-1 seamless gutter is the original installer.

ATC

Dave contacted Chuck Tennyson who works with Driftless Conservancy. The lawsuit continues. Legal teams are presenting final arguments in circuit court and Driftless Defenders have asked people to attend court to show their opposition to the project. Oral arguments will be made October 29 at 1:30 and this is the zoom meeting the Driftless Defenders would like people to attend. Dave will forward the meeting passcode to the group. Nov. 10 is when decision is expected.

Observation Deck Access

Lydia will mail to Brad copies of the plans that Palmer made for access to the observation deck. Brad thought there might be movement to the deck which could be a problem depending on how the step is attached. Jerry asked Brad to look at the plans and see how Palmer envisioned the step attachment. Brad thought this might be a spring project. Brad will look at the plans and get back to us in November.

The next meeting, Monday, November 9, 2020, will start at 5:30 pm. This will be a zoom meeting. Sarah will send out the new ID and password.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary