

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: February 10, 2020

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds State Park Friends Shelter, Blue Mounds State Park, Blue Mounds, WI

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

The January 2020 meeting was cancelled due to illness.

Minutes

Bill motioned and Dave seconded to accept the October 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed the FMRT checking account balance of \$25,456.83 at end of December 2019, and \$28,030.13 at the end of January 2020 (this includes several trail pass payments). The Fidelity account 4th quarter gained \$2,651.99 for an account total of \$23,451.

Dave motioned to accept the report as presented, Sarah seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meeting's agenda

None

DNR Topics

The Dane County Environmental Council gives out partnership grants. February 28th is the grant deadline.

The Friends' contract with the State has been signed.

Verona High School Construction - There have been meetings with the contractors, the city of Verona, and the Verona High School about rerouting the trail around the construction site.

DNR representatives are still meeting with Duluth representatives about the reconstruction of the trail next to the new Duluth building in Mt Horeb. Duluth still wants a path from the trail leading to the building.

The Fitchburg kiosk and bike repair station are still set to go for the spring.

The paved section of trail east of Verona is still being plowed by a volunteer and this is much appreciated by users.

The Park master plan is still progressing.

There have been a few new positions and changes in DNR employees announced.

The DNR created a new position for a manager of for Military Ridge and Badger State Trails.

Three bridges projects have been approved for repair with concrete slabs.

There is confusion about when the trail is open for snowmobiling based on the north and south designations of the trail.

Prairie Enthusiasts like the Barneveld kiosk and want to replicate it.

The snow mobile club did put up fencing at the Ridgeway depot.

Kevin asked that verbiage be added to the master plan to entertain the DNR taking ownership of the Ridgeway Depot.

The Mt Horeb Economic Development Council asked for another meeting with the DNR. The village of Mt. Horeb purchased the old fire station and is in the process of having it torn down. It is still uncertain if the site will be a new parking lot. The DNR will not approve the proposed green space (in the current site of the 2nd Street trail parking lot) unless parking spaces lost are offset with more parking space adjacent to the trail.

Kevin will send Jerry information on the standard bench to share with Sharon Belach.

The Village of Ridgeway is proposing the construction of a gazebo next to the trail in the trail right-of-way. This is currently where children wait for the Dodgeville school bus and would provide a place to escape bad

weather. The DNR needs to be contacted about this. The gazebo would have to be ADA compliant. The DNR needs a site plan, materials list, and then would have to send the proposal through the regular channels for approval. Kevin thought the timeline for approval could be 8 months. Questions from the Friends included: would this be open to general public.? Do we want to think about a bike rack? The gazebo is being funded by donations, and the Advancement Association of Ridgeway. Kevin said the DNR may be more responsive to the project if the village is committed to maintaining the structure.

Bruce will ask the village of Ridgeway if they can mow the grass around the depot so we don't have to hire someone to do it. He will report back to us.

Trail safety signage

The group decided no bid is needed for sign costs, the signs should be double sided, we should order two signs for each message, and signs should have "Sponsored by Friends of Military Ridge Trail" on the bottom of each sign with the FMRT phone number and website url. The DNR will ask legal about the advisability of the "Caution, busy road ahead" sign. Sarah comes back with the cost for the signs to next meeting

ATC

The project is still in limbo.

Discover WI

April 8th will be the Dodgeville showing at the Dodgeville High School. There will be more information to come at the next meeting.

Earth Day

The group will consider potential Earth Day projects at the next meeting. Bruce will ask the ridgeway 4H if they want to work on the trail. The group asked if we need volunteers to fill out the DNR volunteer sign off form. Kevin thinks not.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, March 9, 2020 at the Blue Mound State Park Friend Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary

Annual Minutes 2019- FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

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Bill reported a checking account balance for the end of December 2019 of \$25,456.83 and an investment account balance (Fidelity account) for the end of 2019 of \$23,451.

Dave motioned to accept the financial report as presented, Sarah seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dave proposed that the slate of officers be voted on as one vote. All persons currently holding offices are willing to serve next year. By unanimous vote Jerry (President), Dave (Vice President), Bill (Treasurer) and Sarah (Secretary) were all voted in again unanimously. Lydia is still willing to work with Bill on the financials.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary