

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: March 9, 2020

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

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

Minutes

Dave motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the February 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of February balance of \$27,964.75 in the FMRT checking account. Bill collected the past due trail pass money from Fitchburg Cycle and in the future he will collect from them monthly. Trail pass sales for 2019 that come to FMRT were \$9,596.00. Dave motioned to accept the report as presented, Sarah seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meetings agenda

None

DNR Topics

The Fitchburg kiosk is still a go. Workers might begin pouring the slab in early April. Badger Home Improvement is doing the kiosk.

The DNR is working with Verona High School on the box culvert. The snow mobile reroute went well. The trail was closed last week to pour the deck for the culvert. and will be closed for the next few days to put in the approaches. There is a 3 or 4 foot drop off on the sides of the culvert and Verona School plans to put railings around the drop off as a safety precaution.

Negotiations with Tri-Holdings (the Duluth project) are stalled by red tape.

DNR is working on a project under the 5th street bridge in Mount Horeb to stop erosion of the trail including putting in a cement pad and curbs on the trail under the bridge as well as making bank improvements to stop all the erosion.

The DNR is working with Jessica Peterson to replace some of the wooden bridges with cement slab bridges.

Legislation is moving along that supports having Class 1 e-Bikes on park property (Class-1 e-bikes have a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and cease to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 miles per hour).

DNR staff is working on putting up signs on trail crossings, swapping out old signs, and creating new ones.

For Earth Days DNR is waving all park and trail fees for that week. There will be a press release on this.

DNR doesn't publicize anywhere when the trail is ready for riding.

Friends promotion

Bill would like to have the Friends be at the various intersections and kiosks that bikers pass to have the Friends meet and greet people and make them aware of the Friends group. Brad suggested that we do it at different spots on different dates. We will decide on this next meeting. If members have other ideas they should email them to Jerry and he will share them with the group and put them on the agenda next time.

Safety trail sign campaign

Use "Busy intersection ahead" and take out the word "caution" on the signs to flank the PD intersection. The side of these signs facing the road will say "Ride safely". Have one sign made that says "Friends of Military Ridge Trail. The total cost for signs will be \$385. Sarah motioned to put \$385 towards signs, Bill seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Betlach bench

Kevin sent information on types of benches the DNR purchases trail use (6 feet, \$1,200). We already passed a motion to put \$500 towards the bench. The bench will be put in without a cement base (buried posts with cement around the posts) and the location will be near the roadway by a big oak tree. Sharon will come to the April meeting. DNR will prep the site and Friends will get a quote from Sharon to put on the plaque. Jerry will put this on the agenda for next time.

Calendar

Lydia will send the 2020 calendar out to everyone for review. Hyde days are a week before Horribly Hilly.

Grass mowing around depot

Bruce will ask the village board at the village meeting on March 10 to mow around the depot.

Ridgeway Gazebo

Ridgeway Advance is meeting March 10 to talk about the gazebo.

Horribly Hilly

The Horribly Hilly date is June 20. Water is an issue at the site where the FMRT are set up. We need more than one port-a-potty there.

Discover WI video

The Discover Wisconsin video preview is April 8th. Bill and Dave are invited. The opening will only include the people directly involved in the filming.

Riley Depot plumbing winter maintenance

We will discuss at the next meeting how, who we employ, and the costs involved in turning the water on and off, and winterizing the plumbing at the depot.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, April 13, 2020 at the Blue Mound State Park Friends Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary