

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: May 11, 2020

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

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; Tom Pedretti;; Paul Petzold, Eagle Scout

Minutes

Bill motioned and Jerry seconded to accept the March 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. There was no meeting in April therefore no April minutes.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of April balance of \$28,955.69 in the FMRT checking account. Bill made the final collection of trail pass money from Rocket Bicycle and there were a few donations. Bill paid the insurance bill (the insurance company has given Jerry no positive reply as to if the changes to the policy have been made). The plumber turned the water on at the depot. The cost was \$208. Two valves had to be replaced. This bill is not reflected in the April balance. The Fidelity account as of May 5, was \$21,200, last year's ending balance was \$23,454. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report, Linda seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meetings agenda

None

Eagle Scout Project

Paul Petzold, a Mt. Horeb High School junior, is working on an Eagle Scout project. He proposed restoring the Himsel shelter located east of Waltz Park and west of Town Hall Road. He would like to replace the roof and the benches. The Project would include some landscaping in back of the shelter. Kevin has worked with Paul and is good with the project. Paul would be doing the planning and supervising of other scouts who will work on the project. Due to covid 19 volunteer projects are shut down until June. Paul is hoping to do the project in August.

Kevin will sign off on the project as the parks beneficiary, and will coordinate vehicles on the trail, delivery of materials, and safety of trail users.

The Friends considered funding the project. In the past Kevin thought Friends had funded up to 50% of material costs for similar projects. Jerry motioned that we fund up to 50% of the material costs (up to \$400), Sarah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lydia suggested promoting the project in local papers. Paul will look in to putting an article in the paper to give publicity to the Scouts and the FMRT. Lydia could also put pictures and text on our website.

DNR Topics

Trail Head Kiosk - Fitchburg

The kiosk pad is poured, one memorial bench is on the slab, and the area is landscaped and seeded. The bike repair station had missing parts so it has not been put in yet. There will be a sign saying "Fitchburg" at the kiosk. Badger Home Improvement is doing the kiosk. Originally the work was to be funded by a Stewardship request. This request was denied, but funding was approved through an Enhancement Project. There was discussion about the Friends

commitment to funding. Bill thinks we can go ahead with our commitment. FMRT is planning to contribute to the trailhead project. The amount of contribution is pending resolution.

Verona

The first bridge after the park-n-ride has been redone. DNR staff has replaced almost all of the decking and put stripping down the middle.

The Verona high school culvert by Wild Cat Way is complete. Railings are still needed on culverts put in last year.

Entire Trail

The DNR has graded the entire length of the trail this month except for a few wet areas around Epic.

Master planning for the trail is still moving forward but slowed due to the pandemic.

The DNR is still working with Jessica Peterson to replace some of the wooden bridges with cement slab bridges. DNR needs to do some site inspections on the bridges and then hopes to open the bidding process in June. The project includes repairing some of the structure, piling caps and stringers.

Kevin noted that the trail is heavily used - this is good!

Mt Horeb

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

The DNR is working with an arborist on taking down dangerous trees on a stretch of trail near Waltz Park.

Betlack Bench

The DNR sent a request to Sharon for verbiage for the plaque. When this comes back they will get the plaque produced. The FMRT has committed funds to this project.

Riley

We cannot put a port-a-potty at Riley yet due to restrictions related to covid 19.

Financial Projections

Lots of places that sell passes are closed so FMRT will probably make less money than other years but will make some money. REI is usually our biggest seller of passes and they are closed. Conversely, some outlets are selling more passes than ever (bike shops).

Open Houses at the Depot

There was discussion about when/if to open the depot. The depot needs to be cleaned before it is opened this year. Dave would be willing to vacuum. Sarah volunteered to clean next week and spruce up the landscaping around the building. Bill suggested that anyone that wants to clean the depot email everyone to let them know of their plans, then go out and clean. There is a key at the lumber yard you can ask for to get into the depot. Kevin suggested a punch code for the door instead of keys. Kevin could install the punch code system. We talked about disinfecting the depot after each use. Dave motioned that we clean the depot by people volunteering specific jobs and emailing others to keep them apprised of what they are planning to do and what they have done; that we purchase masks, and sanitizers; and have the depot open on June 7th. Bill seconded it, the motion passed. This is contingent on the ban being lifted. Jerry and Dave offered to man the depot June 7. Dave will buy masks and sanitizer. We need a sign on the door

asking people to put on a mask before they come into the depot (if they don't have one we will give them one). Lydia will type something up and send it to Jerry. Jerry will look for wipes for the bathrooms.

Trail Passes

Bill will send passes to both Dave and Jerry for selling.

Mowing Grass

Bruce arranged for the lawn to be mowed. Friends should check and see if it needs mowing or trimming when cleaning and let Jerry know.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, June 8, 2020 via zoom. Sarah will send out the new ID and password.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary