

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: July 9, 2018

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager; Tom Pedretti; Linda McMeen; Dumont Schmidt

Minutes

Dave motioned and Bill seconded to accept the June 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed we have \$25,892 in the FMRT checking account. There has been lots of movement in trail pass money in and out of the account. This is not reflected in Lydia's report. There have been a few requests for bike sale passes via email. The Fidelity account is up to \$20,292. Dumont does not want to be added to the email list for Lydia's financial reports. Dave motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Sarah, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meeting's agenda

Discussion about emails Bill received.

DNR Topics

Friends of Yellowstone State Park are trying to make connections with trail pass vendors.

Verona - Hwy PB is still closed by the bridge and the trail is rerouted through the park and ride. The project is slated to be done the first week in September.

Verona High School - the construction project is behind schedule due to rain. The trail will be closed sometime in August (maybe the second week). The closure will be at least for a month.

Verona - There have been lots of complaints about the trail through the City of Verona. It has washed out in places due to a new fire station. The DNR has blocked permission for an easement along the trail until they the city fixes some of the trail problems resulting from the fire station run off.

Finks has us in the queue to repair the trail between Blue Mounds and Barneveld.

Mt Horeb - The bridge lead paint abatement will begin next week.

The Duluth project is still proceeding.

The Ridgeway highway exit project is still proceeding. When the trail is closed it will be closed from Ridgeview Road up to the cemetery. The DNR thinks the detour will be sometime in August. We will link to the DNR website to alert people via our website to the trail closing. There will be no detours posted due to liability issues.

The enhancement grant, to put kiosk and entrance signage in Verona to welcome people to the Military Ridge Trail when you leave the Madison trails, is proceeding.

The electronic kiosks are coming in the next couple of weeks at the Verona park and ride.

Brad has ordered the Riley interpretive signage. When it arrives he will try and place them quickly.

Brad sent a new document on general operations, what the DNR does to maintain the trail, to Lydia. Lydia posted this on the website.

We missed the deadline for the flower grant.

Per Bill there have been lots of complaints about the bridges. Per Kevin there are projects in the queue and the DNR has budgeted \$8,000 per bridge to repair the decking, rails, and stringers. Kevin said the DNR has submitted for repair every bridge that has not been worked on for the last 10 years. There was lots of discussion about how to rebuild and fund the bridges. The Friends and others (Atkins Bikes, bike groups, etc.) can ask Ben Bergery, Parks Director, if there is money in next year's budget for bridge repair. All the bridges have been inspected recently. Jerry will draft a letter to Ben Bergery about the Friends concern about the bridges.

ATC Power Line

IDIDARIDE Debrief- the ride was on the local news. No one from the group went to the ride.

Driftless Defenders have another rally scheduled at White Oakes on July 21 on highway 23 just north of Dodgeville.

Free Little Library in Dodgeville - Dave opened it and it had wasps. He sprayed it. He took out all the books that didn't relate to nature and put a note on the library saying that the libraries on the trail are dedicated to nature. The library in Dodgeville gives discarded books about nature to the free little library in Dodgeville. Lydia will get donated books from the Mt Horeb library for the free little libraries. Dave would like to have a sign about what books are appropriate for these libraries on all three of the little libraries on the trail.

Someone wants to put a free little library by the new bench in Mt Horeb. We don't know if this is allowable.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, August 13, 2018 at the Ridgeway Depot.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Castello, Secretary