

## **Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: August 8, 2022

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Kate Teasdale; Bruce Paull; Adam Maus; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR

### **Agenda Additions**

None

### **Minutes**

Bill motioned and Dave seconded to accept the July 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed an end of July 2022 balance of \$45,659.25 in the Farmers Savings Bank checking account. We received \$500 from FBMSF for our participation in the Horribly Hilly. We sold a few bricks this month. The committee motioned that we accept the report and Jerry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **DNR Topics**

The DNR has the sign back (purchased partly with the Incentive Grant money). The size is 4' X 8' with wording on both sides (double sided), and has the parking lot address. Installers will need to contact diggers hot line. DNR is going to call Badger Home Improvement about installation. Before installation we will need to decide how/if we will change the front where the sign will go, find out about the set back for Springdale, etc. Lydia will talk to Mary Kay Baum about taking a picture of the Friends in front of the sign after the meeting in October in Ridgeway. The picture will be used for the incentive grant close out report.

DNR continued monthly mowings and general trail maintenance.

DNR is waiting to receive the bike repair stand for Dodgeville.

DNR has starting to talk about herbicide treatment on the trail.

Funding is coming through for the bridge near White Crossing road. DNR was not sure if it will be cement or wood.

A local group is looking for work along the trail near Verona. We talked about projects. Bill suggesting staining the benches along the trail.

Two projects are coming up involving the trail: 1) MMSD will be crossing the Military Ridge Trail 2) Verona will be doing an extension to the waterline to the Cleary Building but this should not result in trail closure. Adam asked about the sewage smell along the trail near Goose Lake. He will monitor it and ask MMSD about it.

### **Commemorative Brick Pricing**

The cost has increased on the bricks. We decided to go with Bill's suggested Plan B, a percentage of profit increase. New prices will be: 4 X 8 \$75, 8X8 \$150, 8 X 8 with graphic \$180 (4 lines of text, or graphic with 2 lines of text, or just a graphic). We've made \$2,500 dollars in brick sales over a 6 year span. Dave moved that we keep the percentage of profit the same (Plan B) and retain the graphic, Sarah seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Adam will have to change the wording on the website and we will have to change the signs in the kiosks. Changes will go into effect October 1. We will share changes with Ethan to put on the Facebook page. Bill will bring copies of the new sign for the kiosk to the September meeting and we can put them in the kiosks.

**Debrief:** Open House September 7 (Jerry and Bruce) only 2 people showed up (it was and raining ). Visitors included Doug Kowlski, who comes every month and reads the historic literature, and Tom McKay. Tom helped set up the displays in the back room and helped the artist who did the mural. Sept 4th Open house will be Jerry and Dave.

### **Tom Pedretti**

Tom Pederetti will be participating in an Honor Flight (honoring his military service) which will stop to pick up mail. His children are asking if the Friends will send a card to him. The group is signing a card and Jerry will send it.

### **Plan for September Meeting at Epic**

Lydia will send the PDF of the sign about the Epic meeting to Kevin and Brad and they will laminate 20. Sarah will staple (through the lamination not the paper so they won't leak) them to the bridges. Kevin will call Sarah to pick them up when they are ready. Jerry sent out a draft agenda for the September meeting. We will introduce ourselves and ask people to introduce themselves. Jerry will share our mission. Brad and Kevin will give the normal DNR report, and we will debrief on the open houses. There will be updates for Webpage and Facebook pages, ATC, at end we will ask people for comments/questions/volunteering. We will have a volunteer sign up sheet there. The next meeting will be on the porch at Riley.

#### **Webpage**

Nothing new.

#### **Facebook page**

Ethan sent an email to Jerry with an update. We have an audience of 19 and growing. Posting frequency ramped up. There have been notifications from the Friends calendar and pictures added. There was a question about how we handle posting photos that include recognizable people. We need the permission of parents to use a child's photo on a social media website. We can use photos with people if the people are unrecognizable.

#### **ATC**

A federal judge has declined to stop construction of the power line on private land but the issue of the power line crossing the Mississippi River has still not been resolved.

#### **Items for the webpage and face book page**

Bruce asked if we could put Kate Teasdale's article on our website and facebook page. Kate thought it was okay if it was linked from Channel 3000.

There is a car show on August 27 at Springdale church. Bruce wanted the event linked on the webpage and Facebook page so trail users might get off the trail and go to the car show. The event is about a half mile from the trail and the road to the event is pretty steeply uphill.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next FMRT meeting will be September 12 at Epic. The October meeting is at Riley Tavern.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary