



## FRIENDS OF THE MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

P.O. Box 98, Blue Mounds, WI 53517-0098

(608)437-7393

A Non-Profit Citizens Organization

Meeting May 17,2000

Present: Keith Sincox                      Susie Paul  
          Jerry Wilson                        Linda Lynch  
          Ron and Sharon Betlach        Cindy Delkamp  
          Bill Kilscheur                     Rick Grundman

Minutes and treasurer report were read and approved.

### Bank Report

Keith reported he had talked to personnel at Farmers Saving Bank in Ridgeway. There will be no problem in establishing an account there. Keith volunteered to open the account and it will be called "The Ridgeway Depot Preservation Fund". The Bank will keep track of donations so we can send thank you notes.

### Lawyer Comments

Jerry asked what was going on with lawyer. Bill said that Janis Tabor was waiting for the legal description of the property. Member expressed concern about the delay in completion of option to purchase to the Ayers Corporation. Bill said he would contact Carolyn Smith about the need to move the legal process along. He will suggest a June first deadline.

### Posters

Ron and Sharon distributed various posters advertising the Friends Group and the trail to members who will give them out to various businesses. There was discussion about the need for more informative posters/handouts for fund raising purposes. We still need more historical pictures of the depot.

### Appraisal

Linda reported on a list of DNR appraisers. The approximate cost of the appraisal, a necessary part of the depot purchase process, will be \$1100.00 to \$1500.00. Members discussed which appraiser to choose to do the work. Sharon moved and Bill seconded a motion for Linda to contact Mark Mitchell from Spring Green, a Licensed appraiser to conduct an appraisal of the Ridgeway Depot. Motion passed.

### Linda's Report

Linda has an application for a grant from Alliant Energy . The money for this year is gone but we could get some next year. She also reported the following number of passes sold:

1998 2133 annual and 1128 daily

1999 1723 annual and 1470 daily

The closing of the A&W's hurt trail pass sales.



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### **Cindy's Report**

As part of the ice age trail day on June 3rd, the Bombay Bicycle Club will be participating in a bicycle ride on the Military Ridge Trail. The Friends group will have a table in Verona where Cindy is selling passes. Linda will advertise the Friend's group to try and get new members and collect donations for the Depot Fund. Sharon and Ron will provide Linda with pictures and posters. June 4 is the State Park's Open House day.

It is also Mount Horeb's celebration and Sharon and Ron volunteered to staff an information table at the Trail center. Cindy also reminded us that on July 19 the Smokey the Bear hot air balloon will be flown out of the Blue Mound State Park. Cindy talked about the erosion problem at the Ron Taylor observation deck. The springs have eroded the dirt around the pilings. Possible solutions include putting fiber material down and rip rap rock around the posts or moving the deck. Part of the trail between Ridgeway and Dodgeville will be resealed.

### **Merchandising**

Members looked at brochures and discussed possible ideas of items to sell to raise money for the depot fund. Susie Paul is in this business and can possibly help in this area.

No future meeting date was set.

Submitted by Sharon Betlach.