

**FMRT 022016**

February 8, 2016, 6:05PM

Friends Shelter

Blue Mound State Park

Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Friends attending: Gerry Wilson, President, Cletus Schwoerer, Vice President, Bill Kalschuer, Treasurer, Palmer Haynes, Secretary, Sarah Castello, Lydia Haynes. Jane Schwoerer, Keith Sincox, Past President, Kevin Swenson, DNR trail manager and Brad Bates assistant trail manager.

President Wilson, according to the Friends bi-laws, called the 2016 annual meeting to order. A time for introductions preceded the formal agenda.

### **Friends 2015 accomplishments**

- Volunteers invested untold hours painting the depot exterior and caboose interior and exterior.
- A historic photographic account of the acquisition, moving and restoration of the caboose was mounted inside the caboose.
- Sjolinds Chocolate House sponsored a successful ice cream social fund raiser for the Friends.
- New plantings at the depot and the Verona kiosk were installed.
- The Ron Taylor overlook was removed due to a property infringement, and the new Ron Taylor memorial bench was placed east of Klevinville in a shady trail rock cut.
- A vista clearing program was initiated under the guidance of the DNR.
- Rotted decking was removed and new decking installed at the Riley overlook.
- A web site development committee was appointed.
- A stewardship grant application was accepted to rebuild the DNR Dodgeville kiosk.
- Friends maintained its significant roster of trail pass vendors and benefited from the sale of the passes.

### **Continuing to 2016**

- Friends will recruit new/younger members.
- Continue to develop regular vista clearing work days.
- Friends will reroof the Barneveld Kiosk.
- A spring meeting with Ridgeway residents concerned with the use and future of the depot will be scheduled.
- The committee will launch the Friends web site.
- Implement rebuilding the Dodgeville Kiosk.
- A bi-laws review/rewrite committee will be appointed.
- Friends will install new “eco” signage on the Riley overlook.  
(Work with Brad and Tom Meyer on this.)

### **2016 and Beyond**

- Friends will recruit new/younger members.
- Bi-laws committee will continue its work.
- Friends will reinstitute its open depot day(s) and recruit hosts.

**2015 Financial Report:** Bill reported that the Friends year end checking balance was \$18,390.30.

Friends trail pass potential revenue for 2015 was \$7,321.50, an increase of 4.3 percent from 2014.

The Friends Fidelity year end account showed \$15,166.96, an increase of \$643 for the year.

**State of the Trail Report:** Kevin reported, presently the DNR has not assigned a Military Ridge Trail Manger. However, The DNR has assigned Brad Bates to assist Kevin in addition to his current assignments at New Glarus Woods S.P. and the Sugar River State Trail. The Friends MRT contact will be Brad. ([bradbates.com@wi.gov](mailto:bradbates.com@wi.gov))

Kevin reported a source for (free) used conveyer belt to cover worn wood bridge decking. His crew will install the belting.

The proposed “wayside parking lot” adjacent to the Cave of the Mounds and the MRT should proceed in 2016.

The US 18/151 on/off ramp west of Ridgeway is in the DOT budget for 2017-18.

Kevin found a carved wooden trail map. He suggested that the depot would be a good home for the sign. Palmer agreed with his suggestion.

Keven reported recent thefts of trail signage.

**Election of Officers:** Bill moved the following slate; Gerry Wilson, President, Cletus Schwoerer, Vice President and Sarah Castello, Secretary be elected as Friends officers. Lydia seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sarah moved that; Bill Kalschuer be elected treasurer. Cletus seconded her motion. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Election of Directors:** Bill moved that; Lydia Haynes, Palmer Haynes, Dave Pearson, Sarah Castello and Keith Sincox be nominated and elected to the Board of Directors. Gerry seconded his motion. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Open Comments:** Meg Skinner is willing to resume her guiding program at Riley. She will only conduct the hikes on a request basis. Requests will be by the FMRT e-mail, or call number and Meg’s e-mail. ([meggsinner@gmail.com](mailto:meggsinner@gmail.com)) This new arrangement will have to be in our Friends calendar and advertised in the print media.

Refreshments were served after the annual meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.  
The Friends will meet on March 14, 2016, 6:00 PM at the Friends Shelter in Blue Mound State Park.

Respectfully submitted,  
Palmer R. Haynes  
Secretary

cc: Melva Phillips  
Tracy Thompson  
Melissa Thiessen