

## FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: April 11, 2016

Meeting Location: Friends Shelter, Blue Mounds State Park

**Friends Attending:** Jerry Wilson, President; Cletus Schwoerer, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Jane Schwoerer; Dave Pearson; Keith Sincox, Past President; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager; Brad Bates; DNR Assistant Trail Manager

**Minutes and Financial Report:** Bill reported the checking balance is \$17,803. The DNR has given FMRT half of the kiosk grant, \$1,425. This is one quarter of the total kiosk cost. Lydia reported that 7 years of depreciation has been expended this year. Going forward Lydia plans on deducting depreciation yearly. Bill moved and Cletus seconded a motion to accept the March 14, 2016 minutes and reports. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

**DNR topics:** The DNR is updating the MRT brochure, including an updated map with cross streets and parking lot addresses. The url for the FMRT website will also be in the brochure. It will be available by Memorial Day. Kevin will email Lydia a PDF of the brochure and will provide the Friends copies for the depot, libraries, etc..

Bill will contact the Dodgeville printer and get Lydia a digital copy of the MRT map that is on the wall at the depot.

DNR is in the process of hiring LTEs. The entire LTE crew will be new and starting in the next 3-4 weeks.

The DNR has had lots of trail work related to storm damage.

Kevin talked to Greg Pitts about wooden trail signs created in 1986. The signs, which are outdated, were made by Greg. The DNR will make them available for the depot so they can be displayed along with information on their historical significance.

Painting of the Mt. Horeb bridge was discussed.

A stretch of trail west of the Ridgeway exit (about 1100 feet) is dangerous due to the poor condition of the seal coating. This stretch was seal coated by the DOT and the DNR is asking DOT to repair it. The DOT will do the regrade and repave this stretch in 2017 when they build the new Ridgeway interchange. The dangerous area is located at the bottom of a hill. Dave asked that a sign be installed at the top of the hill to warn bikers so they are prepared before they head downhill and hit the dangerous, deteriorating paving. This stretch of trail will likely be closed during the regrading/repaving.

**Website Publicizing:** Lydia asked for suggestions related to publicizing the completed FMRT website. The original website proposal recommended publicizing the existence of the site when it was unveiled. Suggestions included: put signs on the trail and kiosks, add information about the website to the monthly meeting notice in the local papers, notifying the Chambers of Commerce in the communities adjacent to the trail, link the website to Friends of Wisconsin State Parks, and link the new FMRT website to the DNR page. Kevin and Brad offered to change the link on the DNR site from the old website to the new one. A conversation followed

about the old domain name, when it would become inactive, and who was paying for the old domain name. Bill thought the payment was being deducted from Jerry's credit card. Dave suggested a FMRT debit card for situations such as this but Bill did not think it was needed.

A local girl scout group has communicated with Bill via the new website and is planning to pick up trash along the trail.

**Dodgeville Kiosk:** Dave took down the Little Library that is installed on the kiosk cement pad and has stored it in his garage. The little libraries should be populated with environmental, nature, or trail related books. Members frequently cull inappropriate books.

As of yet there is no timeline for the construction and installation of the new kiosk but Jerry thought it would be done by the end of July. The group decided we should put new signs in the old kiosk and leave it locked until work is started on replacing it. Bill needs to call Kevin when the construction begins and the DNR will remove all the signage.

**Depot spigot:** Cletus would like an outside spigot on the south side of the depot. Dave made a motion for Cletus to put in the spigot and submit costs to club, Keith seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Meeting with Ridgeway Village Board:** Palmer brought up that we need to set up a meeting with the village of Ridgeway to discuss use of the depot and having Ridgeway citizens possibly increase their role in the depot. This meeting is in response to a presentation by Jon Steen, Ridgeway, at the Friends Nov. 9, 2015 meeting. Jerry will set up a meeting with the village board to discuss all issues related to the depot.

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Cletus. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08.

The Friends will next meet on May 9 at the depot. The business meeting will be preceded by a cookout and a work afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary