

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: January 9, 2017

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds Park Shelter

Friends Attending: Gerry Wilson, President; Cletus Schwoerer, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Jane Schwoerer; Gretchen Pearson, Dave Pearson; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager; Brad Bates; DNR Assistant Trail Manager; Mary Kay Baum

Minutes: Bill motioned and Cletus seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial reports: FMRT have \$16,737 in the bank as of the end of December. Lydia and Bill did an income/expense balance sheet. We made over \$9,000 this year in trail passes. The Fidelity investment is still doing well. Dave motioned and Cletus seconded to accept the financial report. The motion was passed unanimously.

DNR Topics:

- Kevin and Brad have ordered bur oaks, white oaks, white pines, and sugar maples. It was suggested asking Dodgeville High School students to help us plant trees on Arbor Day, April 28th. We will split the order into a couple of different zones along the trail and plant them where box elders were cleared. The planting area is about 2 miles east of Dodgeville.
- We haven't yet heard if we got the stewardship grant.
- The DNR met with representatives from the Mt Horeb public works about the bridge on main street. The bridge will be bubble wrapped, sand blasted to remove lead paint, and then repainted. This will take place in the summer of 2017 and will cause lane closures and rerouting of traffic. The painting project should take about 2-3 weeks.
- The DOT project in Verona on PB is moving forward as planned with a start date in the end of June.
- Prep work has started on the DOT Ridgeway ramp. The trail will be closed for at least a month while they refinish the chip seal on the trail.
- Duluth Trading Company has asked for an easement on the trail. They will be building right up to the edge of the easement.
- Applications for Dane County Extension grants, which may be used for interpretive signs, are due February 28.
- Two foundations grants, the Joyce Weizenicker 500-2000 and the Deboer 500-1000, are both intended for Friends groups to manage silent sports.
- There was discussion about signs on the deck near Riley. The DNR will take the sign frames down.

Telegraph Key Request

Palmer said that the planners of the Historium being built in Mt Horeb requested the loan of a telegraph key. The display would credit Ridgeway Depot as the donors of the key. FMRT decided they would need to see who donated the bigger key and see if the plan is okay with the donor. Gretchen donated the smaller key and it is okay with the loan of the smaller key. Palmer motioned and Dave seconded that we loan the smaller key. The motion passed unanimously.

American Transmission Co. (ATC)

The American Transmission Co. have plans to establish a new power corridor (Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission corridor), connecting northeast Iowa and western Wisconsin, which will most likely go right along 18-151, and consequently would run right along the Military Ridge Trail. The ATC has projected that there is a need for the power line. However, according to Dave, while there are now many more households hooked up to the current line, they are drawing much less power. ATC only gets money from constructing and maintaining the line, not from how much current is transmitted. If the line goes through, any one investing in the line gets a 10% return on their investment in the form of preferred stock. ATC plans to file the proposed plan with the state regulator in 2018.

Construction of the line would directly impact the trail: disruption of the land, aesthetics, noise, etc. Dave would like to motion that we formally oppose the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission project as a group. Lydia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be our monthly 6:00 February 13 meeting in the Blue Mounds Park Shelter. Elections will take place. No by laws will be changed. All current officers would be willing to continue to serve except Cletus. He and Jane are moving out of the area. Sarah will assume Jane's duties in sending out notification of the meetings.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting, Cletus seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting is February 13th at the Blue Mounds Park Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary