

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: April 10, 2017

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Sarah remember to send out meeting notice to newspapers

Friends Attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Keith Sincox, Vice President; Bruce Paull, Tom Pedretti; Lydia Haynes; Dave Pearson; Brad Bates, DNR Ranger; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager

FMRT members meet at 4:00 pm and cleaned the Ridgeway Depot, members sat down for a potluck at 5:30, and the meeting followed. Some more cleaning needs to be done.

FMRT members introduced themselves to Bruce Paull, a guest.

Minutes

Bill motioned and Keith second to accept the March 2017 meeting minutes as revised and sent out April 1. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report was sent out April 1 by Bill Kalscheur. We have \$17,048.97 in the FMRT savings account and \$17,175.71 in the checking account. Friends sold some bricks and sold some trail passes last month. Dave motioned and Sarah seconded to accept the financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Added Agenda Items

- Bricks - The bricks that we purchased are in. Bill asked if we want to do a presentation for Cletus and Jane (their brick is already laid in Mt Horeb). Jack Loud's brick has not yet been placed.
- Ice cream social- Lydia talked to Tracey and reported that Tracey is talking with other business people to see if they want to help sponsor the event (Melissa at Chamber of Commerce thinks it is a good idea). Bill pointed out that the date that the ice cream social is scheduled for is Frolic weekend. Bill will check with Tracey and see if she still wants to do it this weekend.
- Dave moved to accept the agenda, with the added items. Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DNR Topics

-The trees to be planted along the trail will be delivered in a few weeks, probably the last week of April or first week in May. Dodgeville high school is not interested in helping plant. Brad's staff can plant them or can work with the FMRT to plant them. Brad will send an email to the group on the date. Sugar maples will go on the south border of the trail. Oaks and pines are also coming in. When they get the notification that the trees are ready for pick up Brad will send an email to the group.

-The Mt Horeb bridge repainting is on target.

-Brad hasn't heard about the Ridgeway project or the PB project. Bruce said they are surveying for the Ridgeway project;

-The Duluth Trading Company is doing work already on their building site along the trail. Brad revised what he had reported at an earlier meeting and said that Duluth is not building on the trail corridor but going right up to the edge of the trail. The trail will temporarily curved out of the way of the building project to allow for equipment but will be put back in the original location at the conclusion of the building project.

-The American Legion wants to build a memorial where the council circle is across from the comfort station on 2nd Street in Mount Horeb. The memorial may include a bell tower, pavers, a list of veterans, and flags. The DNR hasn't permitted it yet. The council circle was build by the village of Mt. Horeb.

-Memorial benches on the trail

Kevin said some of the benches currently along the trail are not fixable by their staff. Either DNR staff can not get replacement parts or the benches are of poor quality. Kevin would like to establish one type of bench to use along the trail that is produced by Pilot Rock. The cost is \$650- \$1,00 depending on length, and costs about \$100 for installation (they are concreted into the ground). Pilot Rock will send them replacement boards, and other parts needed for repair. These benches have an imbedded metal plaque. Because the Pilot Rock benches are such good quality and easy to maintain they last a long time.

-Kevin said Meg Skinner had DNR permission to collect seed, plant seed, and remove invasives. Jerry has tried to contact Meg by email to set up a date to start removing wild parsnip. Lydia said it is better to contact her by phone.

We talked about past efforts to get community members to clean up the trail. Bill said they had a trail cleaning event for 17 years and then the participation petered out. We talked about new efforts to clean the trail. Some parts of the trail are adopted. Tom picks up a part of the trail.

American Transmission Co. (ATC) Power Lines Expansion – Update

Dave reported that the Driftless Area Conservancy is trying to promote their opposition to the proposed new line. The group came up with a one page information sheet about their concerns which can be signed by concerned parties, and returned to the Driftless Area Conservancy to be presented in opposition. Dave read the sheet to the group. Dave would like the FMRT group to sign the opposition form and send it the Driftless Conservancy. The opposition information sheet could be put on our website with a link to the Driftless Area Conservancy; Bill motioned, and Dave seconded that we sign it and put this on the website. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments of Jerry's list of "Projects Discussed/Planned/Scheduled (the list follows)

-The Iowa County Dairy breakfast is Saturday, June 3, and it would be nice to have the depot open (8-noon) if people wanted to go through. We could put a notice in the Dodgeville Chronicle so people would know about it. There are no volunteers for Saturday.

- The Hyde Family Friendly Days (10:30-3:00) is the 2nd Saturday in (June 10th) on Highway H (5miles down H).

-The above two events will not be put on the calendar unless we have volunteers to man/woman the depot.

-The scheduled May 19th event (4th graders studying Wisconsin history) may not take place due to bus scheduling problems. Bruce is coordinating this event. Palmer, Jerry and Bill all might be able to be here on this day. This event is not on the calendar.

-The rest of the list all involves Palmer and he was not at the meeting

Below is the list Jerry put on the agenda:

Parking Lots: Projects Discussed / Planned / Scheduled

- Replacing Broken Outside Light Chimney? Palmer H. is Researching and Ordering
- Replace Depot Lighting With LED Bulbs (Palmer H. and Dave P.)
- Loan a Telegraph Key to the Mt. Horeb Railroad Station Operator's Room Display. (Palmer H.)
- Sorting Depot Files (Bill K. and Jerry W.)
- Signage for Riley Observation Deck - Tom M., Linda. – Tom Contacted Jeff Durbin, Turning Over to Linda/Lydia
- Planting Hardwoods Project (50 count) – Annual April Arbor Day Project – On or Near April 26-28, 2017
- Thank You Letters For Recent Donations, Secretary Will Prepare With Assistance from Others (Sarah C.)
- School Groups Tour of Depot (Ridgeway, Dodgeville, and possibly Barneveld) – May 19 (Bill K. – contact; Day of event: Jerry W., Bill K., ???)
- Depot Open House Staffing on Sundays:
 - June 4:
 - July 2: Jerry
 - August 6:
 - September 3 (Labor Day Celebration): Jerry
 - October 1: Jerry - Maybe
- Open Depot for Iowa County Dairy Day – Saturday, June 10 (Bill K. – contact, Day of event: ???)
- Assist at Riley Restoration Project, Dates TBD (Meg Skinner and Others)
- Send Spring and Summer Trail Photos to Lydia H. for Webpage Refreshing (All)
- Draft ATC Power Line Dissentation Statement for the MRT Website (Dave P.)
- Contact Plumber to Turn on Depot Water (Bill K.)

Parking Lots: Completed Items in 2017:

- Fifty Saplings Ordered for Planting Near Dodgeville (Kevin S.)
- Re-joined Friends of WI State Parks (Bill K.)
- Port-a-Potty for Riley Parking Area Researched and Ordered (Bill K.)
- Maintain Trail Workday Emergency File Folder (Jerry W.)
- Applied for and Received Approved State Stewardship Grant (Jerry W.)
- 2017 MRT Calendar of Events, Print and on Website (Lydia H.)
- Ordered Commemorative Bricks Ordered For Honoring
- Joined Friends of WI State Parks Group (Bill K.)

Miscellaneous

-Thank you letters have been sent out.

-August 6 depot opening has no FMRT volunteer. Lydia volunteered for this day.

-Per Brad the Riley signage is coming along.

-We need more volunteers for the depot for Labor Day.

-There was discussion about training FMRT members so they could be better informed when staffing the depot. Brad suggested compiling text or FAQ, covering how the depot was renovated, history about the railroad, etc. Dave pointed out that the mural provided information about how the trail was used as a mode of transportation over the years. Lydia suggested that people read the signs in the depot.

-Lydia reminded Friends to send her spring and summer pictures of the trail for the website. Bill suggested putting a blurb on the website asking people to send in their pictures of the trail to Lydia.

-Jerry will be gone in June and Keith will chair the meeting.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, May 8th at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway WI..

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary