

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: May 8, 2017

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Keith Sincox, Vice President; Tom Pedretti; Lydia Haynes; Dave Pearson; Palmer Haynes

Several FMRT members meet at 4:30 pm and continued cleaning the Ridgeway Depot

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the April 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

We have \$20,581.97 in the FMRT checking account. The port-a-potty is set up in Riley and partially paid for. We haven't yet received the DNR grant money for the kiosk. Our Fidelity investments look better this month. We owe \$867 for our insurance on the depot. The last electric bill showed that we used 3 X the normal amount of electricity in the depot compared to previous Aprils. Dave motioned and Keith seconded to accept the financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Added Agenda Items

The Barneveld kiosk is close to completion.

Lydia distributed the FMRT events calendar to be put in kiosks along the trail and other places.

Dave reported that around Highway Z there is a long stretch of trail that has been degraded by horses or cattle. We are hoping that the DNR will grade this part of the trail soon.

Dave moved and Bill seconded to approve the agenda as presented by Jerry. The motion passed unanimously.

DNR Topics

Unfortunately, both Kevin and Brad were not able to attend the meeting. Below are the high points Brad sent to the group in an email:

- The tree order that Kevin completed was reported to be misplaced by the nursery, so Kevin is working to try and acquire some trees elsewhere – more to come at a later date.
- The Mt Horeb “ugly bridge” painting project had to be sent out a second time for another round of bids, most likely because the cost estimates that were received were too high.
- The HO model train set that Brad was helping to acquire will be delivered at a later date. Unfortunately, Brad did not have enough room in his trunk to bring it back with him when in PA. He will keep us posted on its next delivery opportunity.
- LTE's have started cleaning off bridges along the trail and clearing sticks and other debris. They hope to start grading and applying herbicide this month.

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

Dave reported that he received an email from Chuck Tennessee, Driftless Area Land Conservancy, that lists places/people individuals can contact to voice their opposition to the proposed transmission line. The Conservancy has signs they would like to post along the trail to display opposition to the line. FMRT members discussed displaying these signs. Palmer thought it would be okay to display a sign at the depot because it is off the right-away. Bill thought that we could put them along the trail as long as their display couldn't be construed as lobbying. On July 15 the Driftless Area Conservancy will hold a rally at the white oak savanna (north of Dodgeville) to energize people about the project. The Iowa County Board will be meeting May 16 and considering this topic to determine if they oppose it. We decided to print our stated position on the website and put it on the bulletin boards at the kiosks.

Bill got the printed deed for the depot from Linda.

Jerry is looking for the electronic file for the brochure.

Dave will help Palmer put in the LCD lights in the depot.

Several kiosks (Riley kiosk, Mt Horeb information kiosk, and Blue Mounds kiosk) are in need of stain. We will need to schedule a work day to do this. The kiosk in Riley is severally canted to the side and needs to be shored up or replaced. Bill doesn't know anyone that is interested in working on it but is looking in to it. July 10, 1:30 has been scheduled as a work day to stain the Blue Mounds and the Mt Horeb information kiosks. 2 FMRT members per kiosk would be best.

The Barneveld kiosk need 3 yards of black dirt and some grass seed.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, June 12th at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway WI. Keith will chair the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary