

## **FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: July 10, 2017

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

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

FMRT members meet earlier in the day staining the Blue Mounds and Mt. Horeb kiosks.

### **Minutes**

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the May 2017 meeting minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously. There are no minutes for June 2017. That meeting was cancelled as both Jerry and Sarah could not attend and there was no pressing business.

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed we have \$15,124.29 in the FMRT savings account. The Barneveld kiosk is paid in full and we received the first stewardship grant from the DNR. We also received the Horrible Hilly payment. Keith motioned that we accept the financial report and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Added Agenda Items**

Cletus wants pictures of the trail to display for the Ice Cream Social.

Bruce Paull asked how many people came to see the Ridgeway depot as a part of the Hyde Family Friendly Day. Dave reported over 12 people. The FMRT group decided it was worthwhile to keep the depot open for this event. Hyde Days will be on the second Saturday in June 2018. Bruce would like to advertise that the depot will be open when he advertises this event. We talked about a time to have the depot open, perhaps 10-3:30, and decided to again have the depot open for the Hyde Family Friendly Day.

Barneveld 4th graders were also here in June. The group felt that event went well and the 4th graders enjoyed it.

Dave motioned to approve and Bill seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### **DNR topics.**

- PB project has not started. This city of Verona project was supposed to start in June.
- Ridgeway clover leaf includes plans to blacktop the chip seal coat area of the trail. Kevin is not sure when his will be done and also didn't know the date the trail will be closed but will post it when they get the date from the contractor. The machinery now near the trail has to yield the right of way to pedestrians but some of the machinery may block the trail. The ramp project will start around March 2018. We need to change signs on the door of the depot to reflect this. Construction will start first on the west ramp.

- Mt Horeb ugly bridge project, which was supposed to start July-August, went back for a rebid as the first bids went over budget. Kevin did not know if a bid has now been awarded.
- Barneveld kiosk is the best one yet! Signs from the old kiosk need to go back up. We need to add some fill around the outside. If there are any good pictures of this kiosk send them to Lydia for the website.
- Riley kiosk is sinking on one side. Keith and Bill Kalscheur will look into this and come up with some ideas on how to repair it. If it costs over \$2000 to level it it maybe be worth building a new one.
- When the DNR reorders the trail maps that go in the kiosks the DNR will be sure that the new FMRT website address is in the brochure. Do we want to feature the depot more on the brochure? There was talk of putting a picture of the depot on the front of the brochure.
- Electric assist bikes are now not allowed on the trail but the new budget may allow them. Most friends felt that use of electric assist bikes should be encouraged on the trail.
- Most of the attention given to checking trail users for permits is for points east of the Military Ridge trail.
- VFW memorial project in Mt Horeb is not being discussed any more as far as the DNR people knew. There are two conflicts with the proposed memorial: federal funding that provides land for recreational use prohibits memorials on the site; and Wisconsin state policy also has a prohibition on the use of recreational property for memorials.
- DNR staff is constantly repairing bridge damage, and trail damage from the storms and rain, etc.
- Annual friends report. Brad sent the report that needs to be filled out to Jerry and Jerry, Bill and Lydia will work on this. The 2016 financial report, 2016 accomplishments, 2017 board meetings and events schedule, a list of all non-liquid assists, a list of board members, proof of 501C3 status, 990 card, and certificate of insurance are some of the items asked for in the report.
- The tree order was not filled correctly by Boscobel Nursery. The nursery ended up giving us 50 trees, white pines and oaks, and DNR staff went out, picked them up and planted them.

### **Damaged Bridges**

Two bridges west of Town Hall road and east of Mt Horeb have loose boards.

### **American Transmission Company - Dave Pearson**

The stop the transmission group is having a family friendly day to oppose the line. This will take place on White Oaks Farm off highway 23 north of the entrance to Governor Dodge, this July 15 from 3:30-6:30. Some of the towers on the proposed line could be as tall as 13 stories high. Chances are that the route will go right along 18-151, 3 possible routes have been proposed. We can put signs up opposing the ATC line at the Depot but not on the trail.

### **Depot Open Houses Debriefing and Special Opening June 3 and June 10**

June 4th Lydia, Palmer and Tom thought about 6-8 people toured the depot.

July 2 Sarah and Jerry had around 18 people going through the depot.

A couple asked if the depot could be open for a wedding next week. Touring the depot would be something for the guests to do We would need to open the depot at 2:30 and Lydia and Palmer were willing to do this.

The Ridgeway village board used the depot for a meeting. Dave opened and it for the group and it was locked when Jerry next came to the depot.

**DNR Approved Chain Saw Training**

Sarah's husband is looking into chain sawing classes. Brad will give her Dan Wallace's number. Dan teaches classes when the need arises. Bill said to look into the Mt Horeb fire department for first aid classes.

Jerry can't be here for the next meeting. Keith will chair it if he is able.

Bill motioned, and Sarah seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, August 14 at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway WI..

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary