

## **FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: August 14, 2017

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends Attending: Keith Sincox, Vice President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Tom Pedretti; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Dave Pearson, Linda McMeen; Brad Bates, DNR Ranger; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager

Jerry Wilson was unable to attend and the meeting was chaired by Keith Sincox, Vice President.

### **Minutes**

Lydia motioned and Palmer seconded to accept the July 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed we have \$18,374.92 in the FMRT savings account. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **DNR Topics**

- Sections of the trail were closed after the high wind and rain in July due to toppled trees, sand erosion, culvert washouts, and bridge damage. The DNR crew has been cutting trees to clear the trail and leaving them on the side of the trail. They will try and get back to them when time permits and haul them away and/or chip them. Some of the remaining problem areas still include an extensive sandy stretch of the trail in Verona, and rutting and erosion near the 6th street bridge. Both of these will require long term repairs which may include paving. The trail now is estimated to be about 70% repaired. The DNR had lots of problems with trees leaning on or taking down power lines and communications lines. The power companies have been responsive to removing trees causing damage or about to cause damage, but the telecommunications companies have been difficult to work with and only respond when a line is taken down by a tree. In instances where a tree is on the right-of-way and falls onto the adjacent landowners property it becomes the responsibility of the landowner to remove the tree,
- Linda asked about paving more of the trail. Kevin responded that it is a funding issues. Dave suggested asking Epic to pay for blacktopping some of the trail near the Epic campus. The DNR would be glad to partner with any entity wanting to support improvement to the trail, but apparently the snow mobile clubs do not want the trail blacktopped and have stopped the black topping in Verona.
- Kevin received a complaint about mink on the trail near Epic chasing bicyclists.
- Kevin brought a mock up of the new trail brochure with the depot on the cover. FMRT members thought it looked good and both the web address and phone number for the FMRT are correct.
- The project near highway PB has still has not started.

- The DNR is entering into an agreement with a person in Verona to have a section of the trail plowed (old PB to PD, the paved section of the trail).
- There were no updates on the Ridgeway project. There has been work by the utility company on the easement by the cloverleaf. The DOT is promising to repave this part of the trail. The utility company put up caution signs there.

### **Train Set**

Brad donated to the FMRT (for the depot) a train set (HL train set) that he brought back from Pennsylvania. We will need to discuss where it can be set up. It has a Santa Fe locomotive. Brad thought it could be set up as a semi interactive exhibit. Sarah will send a thank you note to Brad's brother who donated the train.

### **Calendar**

The FMRT Calendar of Events is up-to date.

### **Annual Reporting**

Kevin has received all that he needs for the Annual Reporting Document. Lydia sent all the events.

### **American Transmission Co.**

A sign opposing the line has been placed on the caboose and information about the proposed line has been put in the kiosks. We have gotten feedback on the signs. The time frame for determination of the location of the power line is this fall. The DNR has a policy of no soliciting or political signs on state property, so only none political events such as FFA, Blue Mounds Festival, etc. are allowed in the kiosks. Palmer said that a while ago he and Bill were not even allowed to put up interpretive signs on the trail.

### **Vista Opening Work Day**

Tom Meyer wants to set up a day in September for vista opening on the trail. We will let him pick the day. He would like to be there and can only do it on Saturday.

### **Donations**

Dave motioned and Lydia seconded that we have the picture on leather, donated by Melva Phillips, framed. The motion passed unanimously. She also donated a Santa Fe locomotive reproduction. Linda will look into getting this framed. Sarah will send a thank you note to Melva.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, September 11 at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway WI..

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary