

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: September 11, 2017

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends Attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Linda McMeen; Brad Bates, DNR Ranger; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager

Minutes

Bill motioned and Palmer seconded to accept the August 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed we have \$22,960 in the FMRT account. We have been pulling in a lot of trail pass money. There was a \$65 donation from the Clintons. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Palmer. The motion passed unanimously.

Workday

Tom Meyers did not get back to Jerry about dates to do trail work so we could not move forward on this agenda item.

Additional Agenda Items

-2018 Stewardship Application

-Picture framing

DNR Topics

- Stewardship grant -The group decided to ask for funding for Riley interpretive signage to be located by the observation deck. There was discussion about different companies to use for the frames and signs. In the past we have worked with Badger Industries who sub out to I-Zone (they have high-pressure frames that last longer). Fast Signs could do the graphic design. There was discussion about putting in new trail maps in the kiosks. There was also discussion about creating a Military Ridge Trail app. Bill motioned and Jerry seconded that we apply for a \$2500 stewardship grant for Riley interpretive signage. This would be matched by FMRT. The motion passed unanimously. Brad will get us an estimate on the cost for interpretive signage. Bill will get estimates on how much it costs to repair the Riley kiosk that is tipping. Bill will get the file for the map so that we could possibly move forward with more maps in the kiosks.
- The on/off ramp has been cut for the Riley exit. The construction date will be sometime next year (over the summer sometime) and Kevin will let Lydia know when he gets the dates so she can put them on the website. The trail will be reworked around the exits to improve line of site, and the banks will be reshaped and some new culverts put in, to allow for better drainage. Some of the trail will be black topped.

- There are still some sandy areas on the trail that the DNR trail people are working on and repairing. Kevin is working on a FEMA packet to possibly get some money back to work on the trail.
- The new brochures are in and the picture of the depot on the maps looks great. The DNR will bring some to the next meeting.
- There is a volunteer from Mt Horeb working (hand sawing and using pruners) on the trail around Mt Horeb. Lydia and Palmer have a friend who is chain saw certified and wants to work on the trail also. The Friends will pay for volunteers chain sawing and first aid classes.
- The open house on Sunday had 52 people! Brad asked for numbers for this year's attendance at the depot. This number has already been mailed to him.

Thank you note for the train

- Brad's brother will get a thank you letter. Friends will also send another letter that will tell Brad's brother that he can deduct the value of the train set for tax purposes because it was donated to a non-profit. Jerry and Sarah will work on this.

Ice Cream Social

- The Ice Cream social netted \$100. Sjolinds is not interested in doing it next year. The brick was presented to Cletus and Jane at the social.

Closing the depot

Palmer is planning on replacing the bulbs and replacing the chimney before we close the depot for the winter. The screen doors to the caboose need repair. Kevin offered to have the DNR make two new screen doors for the caboose. Bill will take them off and will drop them at the DNR. One of the caboose doors was not locked when Jerry got to the depot before the meeting.

Pot luck

The next pot luck will be in November at the Blue Mounds Shelter before the meeting.

Picture Framing

There was discussion about framing the etching on leather donated by Melva Philips. Linda recommended a metal plate at the bottom of the frame which gave information about the picture. The Meuer estimate with the name plate, matting and a frame, was \$355. The Great Frame up was a little more, \$385, but they seemed to be more interested in the project. Palmer motioned that we go ahead with The Great Frame framing, Sarah seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Sarah will send Linda Melva's phone number so she can follow up with getting information about the picture. Linda will ask Larry Welo about the picture. We should not be paying tax on the frame since we are a non-profit.

Bill motioned and Linda seconded that we adjourn. It passed unanimously.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, October 9 at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway WI..

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary