

## **FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: November 13, 2017

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds Park Shelter, Blue Mounds, WI

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

Keith Sincox can no longer come to meetings so we no longer have a vice president.

The meeting was preceded by the annual potluck.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed we have \$19,657.87 in the FMRT checking account. The bank statement looks different because the bank has changed the format of the statement. Some checks have not yet been cashed so do not show up on the statement. We are well short of last year in sales of bike passes (about \$1200 less than last year). The Fidelity Investment is doing very well (almost a 48% increase over our initial investment in November of 2013). Dave motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Sarah. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Funding a student**

Palmer wanted to follow up on his idea of providing scholarships to individuals to support the trail. Jerry said it would be hard to provide direct wages to an employee. The Friends of Blue Mounds group funds a naturalist position in the park. They also hire someone to do wood splitting, the hours employed not to exceed 59 hours per year. We could also pay tuition for someone to work on an educational project. The DNR does contract people to work on the trail but they have to provide their own liability insurance.

### **Workday**

Tom Meyers has a few vistas he has identified for clearing. The next scheduled work date is December 9. The group will meet where Sletto Road dead ends into the trail. Sletto is off highway P. Participants are meeting at 9:00 and Tom is bringing the herbicide.

### **Chain Saw Training**

Dan Wallace is offering the chain saw class December 6 in the evening and December 8, all day. Sarah's husband is taking the class. He is also signed up for a first aid class at the American Red Cross December 5th.

### **Additional Agenda Items**

None

### **DNR Topics**

Tree planting - last year there was a lot of confusion at the nursery where the tree order was placed. Palmer suggested next year planting the area we clear in December. We committed up to \$600 last year which was not spent so we will commit this amount

again. We want to do some publicity around the planting. The planting will be around Mt. Horeb. Last year trees were planted near Dodgeville. Sarah suggested a year from now we could look at planting along the new stretch of trail (due to the highway project in Ridgeway).

The DNR is allowing a volunteer to plow the gated (black topped area) area on the trail from the PB park-and-ride to the Cannonball Trail. This part of the trail will now be open for bicyclists who want to get from the park-and-ride to the Cannonball Trail.

Palmer would like lightening along the trail at the construction site of the new Duluth Headquarters because of the tightness of the corridor there. Duluth has an easement along the corridor and DNR is not sure how long the easement lasts but it looks like the building is not at all close to being finished.

The DNR has been mowing along the sides of the trails.

The snow mobile club Ridgeway Riders will put the snow fence up around the depot.

Old PB will have 2 small bridges replaced (one is over Mill Creek, and the other a pedestrian bridge).

The DNR has gotten repair estimates for three damaged areas along the trail west of Blue Mounds State Park, They now need to confirm that the money is still available, and then will do the repairs in the spring.

A new bench and little library (a memorium) is being located on the trail between Brian Street and the main street bridge.

The stewardship grant was submitted today. The grant is for \$800 and will match the Friends \$655 cash investment and \$145 in-kind work. This grant money will be used for trail map signs, and interpretive signs. Brad has an estimate of \$292/map for 10 laminated maps that are 3 feet by 16 inches each.

Sarah motioned that we look into programming and co-programming talks that relate to the trail. This was seconded by Dave, and passed unanimously,

#### **ATC Power Line**

Dave had nothing to report on the ATC power line issue. Those opposed to the line are concentrating their work on Grant County.

#### **Etching framing**

The picture donated by Melva is currently being framed. The picture will be covered with a kind of plastic that will not fog up in unheated building. The cost of the project is \$377.61

#### **Winterizing Depot**

The depot is winterized with antifreeze in the toilets, the heat turned off, the paint moved into restroom (interior room) and turned upside down. The DNR offered to put the paint in the DNR maintenance building . Dave will pick it up and drop it off at the park.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, January 8, 2018 at the Blue Mounds Park Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary