

## **FRIENDS of the MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: February 13, 2018

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; Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager; Linda McMeen

The February meeting consisted of the Annual Meeting (mandated by our by-laws) combined with the Friends Monthly Meeting.

There were no new attendees.

The officers for the following year will be: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice President (new officer); Sarah Castello, Secretary; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer. Bill motioned that we accept the proposed officers, the motion was seconded by Lydia, and passed unanimously.

Melva Philips asked that we send the minutes to the Iowa County Historical Society, and to acknowledge them as the donators of the locomotive painting.

Jerry would like the minutes to be on our website.

### **Minutes**

Dave motioned that the minutes be accepted with the correction that the picture was donated by the Iowa County Historical Society (not Melva Philips). Jerry seconded to accept the January 2018 meeting minutes after they are amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report shows that we have \$18,270.21 in the FMRT checking account. A few brick orders came in. Sarah motioned to accept the financial report, Dave seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Additions to this meetings agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda. Dave motioned and Bill seconded to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **DNR Topics**

- Brad has finished a draft on the interpretive panels to be mounted at Riley but he could not be at the meeting. He may send the draft out to members.
- The Regional Friends of the Wisconsin State Park System Meeting, which includes friends of Trails, Parks, Recreational Areas, etc, is taking place at the Blue Mounds State Park Shelter March 13, from 6-8. Those wishing to attend can sign up on-line but Kevin thought if you didn't sign up you could probably just show up. Kevin thought the meeting would be well attended. The meeting will include Friends as well as DNR representatives. The meeting will include discussion of cost saving opportunities.
- Kevin wants to take the interpretive language from the trail guide developed in the past, have it digitized, and then upload it to our website. The information could then be accessed via users phones through signs along the trails. The guide may have been developed by the DNR and have a DNR publication number which may make it easier for Kevin to digitize. Lydia will need assistance in uploading it on the website and linking it to the signs on the trail.
- The Verona School District Project is ongoing.

- The Duluth Trading Company fence (across from the 2nd Street Shelter) has encroached on the trail. The fence may have been pushed back by the snow mobile groomer.
- Kevin will talk to Mt Horeb city planners about the proposal to develop the areas between the Duluth Trading Company and the Food Emporium. Bill thought they were not aware that this was state DNR property.

### **ATC Power Line**

Dave Pearson reported the following:

- Some thought there was no limitation on 501C3 involvement in protecting the driftless area.
- Opposition groups felt that the power line was an unneeded boondoggle; environmentally destructive; much too expensive; hurt property values and the economy; and that there were better, cleaner, cheaper, job-creating alternatives to the line. Because electrical usage is more efficient there is less need for the transmission line.
  - In August a rural environmental group is going to develop an impact statement.
  - The proposed media blitz will now take place in the spring. The group felt that the winter was not the time to do it.
  - FMRT has not yet written the \$100 check to support the media blitz.
- County and townships groups (including the Mt Horeb School District) are forming opposition groups and publishing opposition statements.
- Kevin pointed out that Janet (from the DNR) felt that the FMRT was closely aligned with the DNR and since the DNR couldn't take a stand on the power line the FMRT also should not take a stand. Discussion followed about giving money to support the media blitz. Bill felt that it was supporting the aesthetics of the trail and therefore under the purview of the Friends. Lydia felt it was a such a small amount of money that the donation would not violate any prohibitions on 501C(3) funding of such an action. Jerry felt that that we should not do what the DNR could not do.

### **Work Day**

- Tom Meyers would like to schedule another work day (which will be another vista opening) for either March 24 or March 31. Jerry can not make the 24th. Members should get back to Jerry as soon as possible about their preferred date. Sarah will ask her husband and Lydia and Palmer will ask Dumont Schmidt about their availability to lend a hand chain sawing on either of those dates. Bill will ask Cletus and Jane if they can come for the work day.

The next meeting will be 6:00 pm, March 21, 2018 at the Blue Mounds Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary