

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: April 9, 2018

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

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

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the March 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed we have \$18,864 in the FMRT checking account. Outgoing money this month included: some bricks, payment for a chain saw course for Rich Castello, and utilities for the depot. The latest Fidelity statement shows the account is worth \$19,434.52. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Dave. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill set up a debit card and Lydia, Bill and Dave are on it as signers. To get the card the bank is requesting that we have a formal resolution. So, Dave motioned that we get a debit card from Farmers Savings, Bill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meeting's agenda

Sign on Trail for the Ridgeway Pine Relic

Mary Kay Baum would like a sign on the north side of the trail at the intersection of Highway H and the trail. The sign would alert bikers that there is an entrance to the Pine Relic about 1/4 of a mile north off Highway H. Mary Kay would provide the sign. Kevin said that some in the DNR are reluctant to advertise fragile areas as it draws in lots of people and could ruin the area. Mary Kay does want Kevin and Brad to investigate this. Palmer suggested putting a holder at the intersection of the trail and Highway H for Pine Relic brochures. Bill suggested putting the brochure in the kiosk at Ridgeway.

Mary Kay also offered to the FMRT the use of a tool (a whipper which can also be fitted with a beaver blade), purchased for them by the Kiwanis group and owned by the Pine Relic Friends.

Sign for bike repair business in Mt. Horeb

The owner of the bike store in Mt Horeb would like a sign (with an arrow) on the trail indicating that there is a business just off the trail that does bike repair. Brad and Kevin will look into this. They stated that we can't name the business but the sign could say bike repair or show the universal icon for bike repair (wrench and bike). Bill will post the name of the bike store in the Mt. Horeb kiosk.

DNR Topics

DNR Regional Partnership Gathering at Blue Mounds

Kevin said that earlier in the year it was thought that funding to the parks would fall short unless additional monies were allocated. As it turned out the parks did not fall short but are still able to use the allocated additional funds. One proposed use of the funds is for a 50-50 stewardship grant, the Park Enhancement Grant, to be used to develop signs to briefly summarize the highlights of a park (or of a trail). Kevin and Brad proposed two signs, one at the end of the trail in the west and one at the start of the trail in the east so people are aware of when they enter and exit the Military Ridge Trail. Dave proposed that we ask for stewardship funds for the two signs and look into putting a kiosk at the east end. The kiosk location would also have a pay tube and maps.

Palmer suggested we might want to put in a sign at the Blue Mounds camp ground to advertise the "Bike Hike-In Campground". Bill suggested advertising this camp site on the east end kiosk and also in Verona and Riley.

Brad and Kevin met with Findorff by the new Verona campus. This summer Findorff will have to update the drainage under the trail and put in a 14 foot box culvert. The road to the sports fields south of the trail will have to go over the trail at this culvert site. They are also taking down lots of trees along the side of the trail so they can level out the area for the sports fields. The school district will be a good neighbor for the trail.

The DNR will pick up the tree order at the end of April and will start planting them and Indian grass seed in the area east of Main Street in Mt. Horeb. They don't need Friends to help but Friends can help if they want.

Jerry had the brochure from the Self Guided Nature Trail and gave it to Kevin

Brad's summary of how and why the DNR maintains the trail as they do is now on the FMRT website under the "Trail" tab. Friends suggested adding a picture of the bands put down on the bridges to help preserve the bridges from snow mobile destruction.

There was discussion about the interpretive signs that Brad developed and edits to Brad's language. After the language is approved Brad will get a new bid on the project.

Vista Clearing Work Day

Nine people participated in clearing trees on the north and south sides of the trail east of Sletto Road to Highway P. Now both sides of the trail are open. Brad asked that we cut the stumps lower so they don't snag the mower.

Calendar

Lydia will send a copy of the completed calendar to Jerry who will forward it to all members. Lydia will send a pdf of the calendar to Bill who will have them printed.

ATC Power Line

Dave sent out an email he got from Betsy Dangelo regarding a planned celebration June 30. This will be a biking event and is intended to make people aware of the proposed power line. The event will include family fun at the back of the MainStay Hotel. The group would like the Friends help with talking up the event and informing people about the ATC threat, suggestions for the event, etc. Sarah will get the names of Mt Horeb people involved in the group so we can work with them. Bill motioned that we help however we can. Sarah seconded it, and it passed unanimously. People participating in the event will need directions from the trail to the MainStay Motel.

Bike Rodeo

Bill sent \$250 to Scout Troop #62 for helmets. The troop pays \$7.70 per helmet and gives out between 100-175 helmets yearly.

Horribly Hilly sign up (June 16th)

The site is now fixed so you can sign up easily to help with the event.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, May, 2018 at the Ridgeway Depot. If you can, come at 1:00 to help clean the depot. This event will be a pot luck.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary