

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: June 11, 2018

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway WI

Friends attending: Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Tom Pedretti, Brad Bates, DNR Ranger; Bruce Paulli

Minutes

Bill motioned and Tom seconded to accept the May 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report shows we have \$19,482.29 now in the checking account. As of the end of May we had \$31,488 in the FMRT checking account. There have been lots of trail pass purchases, and two brick sales (the bricks have been ordered but not placed). Bill paid the annual insurance for the depot (\$917), and the water bill for the depot. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Tom, and the motion passed unanimously.

NR Topics

- The grant for flower plantings around the Verona kiosk was submitted.
- Jerry and Kevin are working on the Enhancement Grant for signs and a kiosk. The grant has a June 15th deadline.
- The Verona PB bridge project is going well.
- The Verona High School area is stabilized and there is a chain link fence along corridor.
- A business applied for an easement near Nine Mound Road. The applicants were told they needed to fix a storm water wash out area.
- The Mt Horeb area has a new adopt a trail entity, the Sons of Norway. They will do litter pick up and garlic mustard removal along mile markers 15-17. A new bench was installed in the area west of Brian Street. The person sponsoring the bench wants to put a free little library in near there also.
- The Ridgeway highway exit project is going to impact the trail in August. There will be no reroutes or closures until then.
- Brad sent the Riley interpretive signs in for production. He still needs to go to each kiosk and see what size map will fit in each kiosk (the map will fit the size of the kiosk).

Hyde Family Days

The Depot was open June 9 for Hyde Family Days from 11-3:30. Dave said there were 30-40 people coming through and many of the people had historical information to impart. Fourth graders from Dodgeville, Ridgeway and Barnveld came to the Depot. Bill, Dave, and Palmer were there to help with the students.

ATC Power Line

-Dave pointed out two websites, urls follow, that illustrate that the DNR has been involved for the past 20 years in preserving the Military Ridge Heritage Areas. The urls are: See next page.

-Howard Learner, Executive Director from Environmental Law and Policy Center, spoke June 8th at a public information meeting. He said there are 5 big arenas to be aware of:

-Public Service Commission

-Rural Utility Board

-Politicians (we should all contact our representatives - most local political group are against it); need to keep it in front of our representatives eyes

-DNR environmental impact statement

-Media

ATC was given 200 questions by the Public Service Commission to answer.

-Dave passed out a sample timeline for how events may precede once the ATC application is declared complete by the Public Service Commission. It is attached.

-Opponents of the line need experts to testify about the technical aspects of the transmission lines, impacts on the environment, etc.. It will be costly to hire these expert witnesses and we are hoping for "pro-bono" work.

-The Driftless Defenders are organizing the "Celebrate the Driftless Rally" to take place June 30th from 11-3. They would like the FMRT to put signs up (not on the trail but near the trail), to direct people to the rally. FMRT would like the Driftless Defenders to print the signs and we will put them up.

Ridgeway Farmers Market

Ridgeway is holding a Farmers Market Sundays from 11-2 starting in July. The event will run through September. This event coincides nicely with the depot open on Sundays.

Trail Pass Sales

Linda and Sarah sold \$190 worth of passes on Memorial weekend. When Friends sell passes the FMRT gets 20% of the sale. When vendors sell passes the FMRT gets \$2.50 per sale.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, July 9, 2018 at the Ridgeway Depot.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Castello, Secretary