

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: October 6, 2018

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes, Kevin Swenson, DNR Trail Manager; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Linda McMean; Bruce Paull; John McSherry, from Ridgeway Advancement

Minutes

Revisions were made to the minutes (correction of the name of the grant) and the revised minutes will be sent to Lydia for the website. Palmer motioned to accept the amended minutes and Lydia seconded to accept the revised September 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of September balance of \$15,982 in the FMRT checking account. We need money in this account to have matching money for grants we apply for, to pay the DNR for the cost of trail passes, etc. Dave moved approval of the financial report, Lydia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda

Tom Meyers had some suggestions about vista clearing in November. He proposed clearing a few areas that are now very wet, one being around the observation deck near Riley. He is open to other member suggestions. He thought perhaps we could help with trail clean up from flood damage. Kevin stated that trail clean up is mostly completed.

Ridgeway Advancement wants to use the depot on October 27 for a Halloween event. We need to have Bill extend the time that we keep the water on. Jerry will contact Bill to delay the "turn off water" date. The Ridgeway group had asked that the Depot stay open until 11 pm. Palmer offered to be here that day to supervise. Bruce and Linda suggested that there also be one responsible person at the depot from the Ridgeway Advancement group. Dave moved to leave the depot open from 6:00 to 8:00 for the October 27 event. Sarah seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the provision that a responsible person from Ridgeway Advancement also be there for the event. Bruce will contact the group to ask that someone from their group also be at the depot.

ATC

Dave reported we are now in the pre-hearing phase of the timeline. This is when the DNR is doing an environmental impact statement. The DNR meet with the public service commission liaison to the DNR to give their professional thoughts on the impact of the power line.

DNR Topics

2018 Flood Repairs - Kevin and Brad have concluded repairs for the year except for the Riley bridge (they need a contractor to reset the bridge). The trail between Hwy J and Riley will be closed for a while because of the bridge. Some decking is still needed on the bridges.

The DNR has begun mowing on the edges of the trail. They will be doing ditch mowing in the next couple weeks. They will chip sections of the trail from Riley to Madison opening up the areas around bridges.

The pending closure in Verona is behind schedule due to weather. This section of the trail is going to be closed later in October.

A section of the trail in Ridgeway is now closed due to road construction and the exit/entrance ramps. As a result of the construction a section of the trail will be improved.

Duluth is still working on the building project.

Brad will send out an email to all those who volunteered to work on the trail to let them know what is going on with trail work and when they may be needed.

Brad will be assessing the bridges to see which need to be re-decked.

Brad is still working on the interpretive signage.

Enhancement Grants

2018 DNR Enhancement grant

FMRT applied for money to build a kiosk at the east terminus of the trail. The money is coming. We are asking for \$3000 with \$3000 matching from the FMRT. The kiosk will be west of PD where the Military Ridge Trail begins.

2019 DNR Enhancement grant

What do we want to ask for in this grant application? Ideas are a bike repair station (Brad estimates it would be about \$3000, FMRT would ask for \$1500), a kiosk, orientation signage (signs showing distance between certain areas). Jerry suggested at the base of the bike repair station we could have bricks since we would have to pour a cement base. Dave motioned that we apply under the 2019 Stewardship grant, and Jerry be authorized to submit this application, for a bike repair stand with a cement base with a future area for bricks. Lydia seconded the grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Mount Horeb Green Space

The Village is in the concept phase of redoing the Depot area and surrounding areas adjacent to the trail. The plan is to make the parking lot more of a green scape and move parking to the side. Brad encouraged FMRT members to share their thoughts on the plan with the village. The Village would like the Friends to do a wish list of what they would like to see. The FMRT groups will ask Bill about the proposed green space in Mt Horeb and if it would be appropriate to invite someone from the green space planning committee to come to our meeting to give our input.

Friends of Blue Mounds

Friends of Blue Mounds is planning another appreciation event and asked us to come since we help with the Horribly Hilly. The date has not yet been set.

Ron Betlach remembrance

A Ron Betlach remembrance was discussed again by the group. Palmer will write something on behalf of the group to be read at the funeral. Jerry, who is attending the service, will give the remembrance to Ron's relatives. The writing will include mention of a \$50 donation by the FMRT to a group suggested in the obituary. Sarah made the proposal to donate \$50 to an organization mentioned in the obituary, Dave seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Caboose picture

A woman from the bar across the street stopped to talk to the meeting about getting a picture of our caboose in Caboose News.

Melva's Albums

John McSherry, from Ridgeway Advancement, proposed that we look at some of the things Melva Philips has (mostly albums) to include in the collection at the depot. Jerry expressed concerns about the lack of climate control in the depot and the effect it may have on the binder contents. Brad suggested locating the collection in the village hall since it is more climate controlled. The Iowa County Historical Society was also suggested. John McSherry would like to keep it local. Jerry said if we had a reliable local person to open the space the FMRT would like to work with them to keep the depot open more. John will find out how much room (in bookshelf space) the collections will take up. He will come back to a future meeting with the space needs.

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Workshop

There is a Friends Workshop on November 10 in downtown Madison at the convention center. The event includes workshops on raising funds, building buildings etc. The cost is \$35 for workshop, reception, and awards. Dave moved that the FMRT pay the workshop fees for anyone willing to go. Lydia seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Jerry will send out information about the workshop.

The next meeting is Monday, November 12, 2018 at the Blue Mounds State Park Shelter. This is a potluck meeting so come at 5:00 and the meeting will start at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary