

## **FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: January 21, 2019

Meeting Location: 1724 Syvrud Road, Mt Horeb

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Linda McMean; Tom Pedretti

### **Minutes**

Bill motioned to accept the minutes, Lydia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed an end of December balance of \$24,283.19 in the FMRT checking account. Trail passes are all paid for. We sold \$9594 in trail passes. 2012 was the record year for number of trail passes sold but this is the record dollar year. The biggest contributor to our gain was Fitchburg Cycle (513 sales from them), REI sold a lot also. The Fidelity report took a hit. The FMRT financial advisor, Harold P. Hellen, is changing affiliations. Dave moved to approve the financial report as presented and keep our affiliation with Mr. Hellen in his new company. Palmer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

Trail Master Plan

### **Gift of trail passes**

Sarah will write an article for the local papers saying give a pass for Valentines Day, etc.

### **DNR Report**

The DNR has some concerns about the proposed green space in Mt Horeb. The DNR is worried about parking and noted that there is no parking now for bikers. The lot is always full during the week. The department is not opposed to somehow improving the area. FMRT felt that we need to guarantee that safe, and sufficient parking will be available for trail users before the project moves forward. The DNR is meeting with the Mt. Horeb Economic Development Corporation and Kevin will let us know more at the next FMRT meeting.

Three of the dragons on the roof of the Mt Horeb comfort station have been removed. They are rotting and need repair. The village has gotten estimates on the repair. In the spring the DNR will revisit their part in this project.

Kevin is working on a kiosk with benches west of Ridgeway (east of Ridgeview Road). The wording and symbols on the benches are too rotten to restore. Dewey Signs will replace the boards with lettering and symbols for \$415.32. Palmer moved that FMRT pay half of the cost from Dewey Signs (\$208), Sarah seconded, and the motion passed with one opposition vote.

Bill and Jerry want to go with Kevin to site the new signs on the east end of the trail

The Howard Himsel shelter east of Mt. Horeb (between Waltz Park and Town Hall Road) is falling apart. Kevin hopes to get the Boy Scouts interested in rebuilding this. The board expressed interest in partially funding this project.

**Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be February 11, 2019 at Blue Mounds Shelter. Sarah will elaborate in the notice sent to the papers (or write an article) to try and attract interested in the group and new members. We would like to secure board representation from each village on the trail . The annual meeting includes talk about future projects and election of officers. Currently running for office are: Sarah for secretary, Bill for treasurer, Jerry for president, and Dave for vice president.

**ATC**

There are lots of experts pledging to testify before the PSC against the ATC towers and power lines.

Black Earth Public Works wants water put into the Black Earth Park where Horribly Hilly stops: They are applying for FEMA funds that may help with this project.

The group adjourned 7:45.

The next meeting is Monday, February 11, 2019 at the Blue Mounds State Park Shelter. The meeting will start at 6:00 and will start with the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary