

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Minutes

Meeting Date: April 8, 2019

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds State Park Friends Shelter

Attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Lydia Haynes, Bruce Paull, Donna Paull, Jennifer Meeker, Carol Murphy (Dodgeville Library), Regina Reason.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 by President Jerry Wilson. Those present introduced themselves.

March Minutes: Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2019; made by Bill, seconded by Dave and approved.

March Financials: The financial reports were distributed and showed a bank balance at the end of March of \$23,797.29. Bill noted that we have paid for our portion of the sign project. Bike Repair stand has been ordered and will arrive this week. We have paid our share. Motion to accept financial report made by Dave, seconded by Jerry and approved. Fidelity reports for first quarter were received today and showed upward movement.

Addition to Agenda: Carol Murphy from the Dodgeville Library requested discussion of the story time for children in the depot be added to the agenda. FMRT previously approved opening the depot for the Dodgeville library to conduct story times this summer but no dates were discussed. The 2nd or 3rd Sunday afternoons from 12-3 was suggested but other options might be suggested. Carol will discuss dates with Dodgeville library director and confirm soon so they can be on FMRT calendar. Carol will be given a Depot key.

Depot Openings: The depot will again be opened for groups to tour after visiting Hyde Mill. On May 10 the kids from Barneveld will tour the Depot about 11:00 and the Dodgeville/ Ridgeway group will arrive about 12:00 or later. Dave and Bill have volunteered to staff the depot from 11 am to 3 pm. More volunteers at the Depot on May 10 will be welcome. Email Jerry or Dave to volunteer for any of the openings.

The Depot will be open the second Saturday of June, (June 8) from 10 am to 3 pm for visitors who have attended Hyde Family Friendly Days. Dave P. and Palmer H. have volunteered but more volunteers would be welcome. This opening was discussed and approved at the FMRT March meeting.

The Depot will **not** be open for Iowa County Dairy Days.

Sunday Depot Open Houses will be held June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, and October 6 from 12-3 pm. It is good to have two or more volunteers present at each Open House to greet visitors.

Memorial Bench: Jennifer Meeker distributed plans for the memorial bench her family would like to install behind the caboose. It will be on a slab. She was looking for an ok of the location. Kevin needs to check the property lines and check with the snow mobile club rep to learn where the groomer turns around. Jennifer asked about the size of the slab and was told there needs to be two feet on each side of the bench and needs to be seven feet from the kiosk. Dave moved we approve the bench location pending DNR approval. Bill seconded. Approved.

DNR Report: Kevin will be meeting with Duluth about relocating the trail. He met with greenway improvement committee and learned Phase I will be removal of junk trees, adding grasses and adding lighting from 1st to 8th streets. If they put in lighting, want them to take responsibility for maintenance. Fitchburg trailhead enhancement project. Surveyor will mark where cannonball trail starts. Bike repair stand and newly completed entrance signs will be installed at entrance to Military Ridge Trail. Jerry suggested we have some publicity around the opening of this entrance when they are in place. Riley sign panels were put up today. There is pressure for paving sections in Verona and Mt. Horeb by those communities. DNR will be having public input sessions on trail Master Plan beginning in Dodgeville. Kevin and Brad met with FEMA about the August damage this week. The annual audit is due by April 30.

Gemplers' request: If we identify a trail project such as brushing or clean up, they would provide 6—8 volunteers. They are interested in a monthly activity. Katie Larson is the Gempler contact.

ATC Power Line Update: Dave distributed a statement of the environmental impact of the ATC power line.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Next Meeting: May 6, 4-6 clean up depot; 6 pm meeting begins.

[Note: This is first Monday instead of second.]

Respectfully submitted, Lydia Haynes, substitute for secretary