

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: June 10, 2019, 2018

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Bruce Pauli; Linda McMean; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Rodney

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the April 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of May balance of \$25,977.95 in the FMRT checking account. Palmer motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Linda, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meetings agenda

There were three additions:

- Palmer wants to discuss the tall step to the Riley observation deck and his proposed sketch;
- Bill wants to discuss FMRT funding part of the cost to repair the Mt. Horeb comfort station dragon heads;
- Someone from Ridgeway wants to store/have available for display yearbooks from Ridgeway in the depot

DNR Topics

- The proposed Mt. Horeb Economic Development Corporation project, to convert the 2nd Street bike shelter area to a green space, has been pushed back to 2020.
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- The DNR is working with Duluth on: straightening the trail (returning it to it's original configuration); a land use agreement; a utility easement; and Duluth employee's strong interest in volunteering on the trail.
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- The Verona High School is moving forward with their tunnel in back of the new school campus. They are anticipating trail closure to be sometime in July and last about a month. An alternate route is being suggested (Epic bridge around Nine Mile Road).
- There is lots of encroachment on the trail. It is an especially big problem in Blue Mounds. The DNR is documenting the encroachment and planning to send letters to encroaching landowners (to give them official notice).
- Kiosk project at the beginning of the trail on the east end - The ADA coordinator held it up for a while (benches on the kiosks that have been used to date aren't wheel chair friendly); the DNR has decided to remove the benches, expand the concrete slab so it goes all around the kiosk, pour another connecting slab for an ADA approved picnic table, and put the bike repair stand on other side. Surveying of the area has been completed. We need to get the final dollar amount for the project, pay the FMRT part upfront to the DNR, then the DNR pays the contractors and the rest of the costs. We need to know the exact site, figure in the new kiosk configuration and benches, concrete expansion and bike repair station so we can determine the price of the project.
- Memorial bench between Verona and Madison - Bill sent a message, from a woman interested in a memorial bench, to Kevin and Brad. Kevin will contact her. The DNR has a standard for

memorial benches. It was mentioned that we may need to think about how many benches we have so the trail doesn't have a "funeral feel".

Linda Lynch is available to volunteer. The DNR has contacted her before and used her help.

Trail pass fines - When DNR is checking for passes, and the rider doesn't have a trail pass, and the rider is not able to purchase one right on the trail, the DNR gives the person a courtesy pass which is something they have to follow up on with payment. After that there is a process to follow and ends eventually in a citation and fine if the rider does not send in the payment.

The Ridgeway memorial bench - The DNR needs to make a decision on where to put this (they have to pick one of two sites, both are on state property not Friends property). Kevin wonders if the Friends want a marble bench between the depot and the caboose. Linda motioned that we direct the DNR to not site the bench between the depot and the caboose. Lydia seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with a few abstainers. The location of the bench is now up to the DNR.

Riley observation platform steps - Palmer is working on an architectural design for a step up to the Riley observation platform. Palmer showed his sketch. The step is the width of the opening to the platform. Palmer motioned that the step be a future work day project, Bill seconded it, the motioned passed unanimously.

Mt Horeb comfort station dragon heads - Jeff Gorman asked if FMRT would put funding towards the repair of the dragon heads on top of the Mt Horeb 2nd Street comfort station. At the last meeting Bill proposed putting \$1000 towards the project. Lydia seconded the proposal and it passed unanimously.

The Depot open house went well. Bruce would like to see in the future fewer children at a time at each site (depot, caboose and other sites visited).

Mowing around the depot - Dave suggested asking the village if they would mow around the depot for free. Bill stated that we would need to contact the village and ask to be put on their agenda to make the request. The issue was tabled and will be addressed in the fall or winter.

Hyde Days - There were 7 people attending Sunday's Hyde Days event at the depot.

Garlic Mustard removal on May 10th - No one from the FMRT attended.

REI event - lots of participants at the indoor event and a few groups outside. The DNR trail pass covers state trails. Madison trails are free, you do need to register your bike though.

Other potential projects - The kiosk at East Blue Mounds Road needs staining, the Blue Mounds kiosk needs work, and the kiosk by North Road also needs work. We will see if Duluth volunteers may do some of this work. Volunteers do create work for the DNR in supervising, etc.

ATC - Dave sent an email to the group about the hearings before the PSC scheduled for Madison, Dodgeville, and Lancaster June 25,26, and 27. All are encouraged to attend.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, July 8, 2019 at the Ridgeway Depot.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary