

## **Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL**

Meeting Date: August 12, 2019

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes; Bruce Pauli; Kevin Swenson, DNR; DuMont Schmidt; Rodney Albers; Sarah Castello, Secretary

Barbara Westphall's request to discuss safety on the trail has been tabled until the next meeting. She was not in attendance.

### **Minutes**

Lydia motioned and Palmer seconded to accept the July 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed an end of July balance of \$38,240.64 in the FMRT checking account. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Jerry, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Additions to this meeting's agenda**

DuMont wanted to talk about trail maintenance and invasive species along the trail.

**The DNR Friends agreement** was updated and sent to the group. It may require that we update our insurance policy to meet the conditions of the new agreement. The DNR should be listed as a certificate holder. Kevin will send boiler plate language to Bill who will then talk to our insurance agent. Kevin will send Jerry a new signature page. Both Jerry and Sarah need to sign this.

### **DNR Topics**

Memorial bench at Riley depot. The cement has been poured for the pad (textured cement) and they are close to having the bench placed.

Letters to trail neighbors in the Blue Mounds township went out. One person in particular was very upset. Kevin met with the upset landowners and the meeting went well. There are buildings, trailers, other equipment, non-native plantings, etc. in the trail corridor and this will need to be straightened out. There was discussion about where the actual lot lines/trail corridor is located.

DuMont discussed areas of the trail that needed work to remove noxious plants.

Bridge replacements are on hold due to the DNR engineer being out. Kevin and Brad are working with a DNR engineer from Green Bay now to design the first bridge with a cement slab surface.

Due to the Verona High School Project the trail will be closed sometime this year, probably mid November to mid December, to put the overpasses in.

The DNR is still working with Duluth on trail issues. Duluth needs to remove all of the walks that criss-cross the trail in this area except one.

Trail maintenance is going well. The DNR is limbing, chipping, taking down leaners, etc.

### **Other Topics**

Bill Kalscheur knows where the family wants to locate the bench for Ron Betlach. Ron used to be the treasurer of the FMRT.

Ken donated a piece of railroad equipment to the depot.

The use of the depot for the 2020 wedding has been canceled. The insurance company would want a special insurance policy for this event. The insurance company thought perhaps we needed special insurance for the library use of the depot.

A bookcase for Ridgeway history (high school annuals) will be discussed next time. Do we want these here? Why are they already measuring for the book shelves?

There is an ATC open session meeting on August 20, 10:30 am at the Public Service Commission in Madison

Lydia and Palmer may be able to cover for Rodney and Patty on September 1 at the depot.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, September 9, 2019 at the Ridgeway Depot. We decided not to have Sunday depot open houses in October.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary