

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

Meeting Date: September 9, 2019

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Lydia Haynes; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Linda McMeen; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; DuMont Schmidt; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Rodney Albers; Sarah Castello, Secretary

### **Minutes**

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

### **Financial Reports**

The financial report showed an end of August balance of \$34,088.09 in the FMRT checking account. Lydia had to buy a new version of Quikbooks to keep the financial records due to computer malfunction. DuMont asked if we do an estimated budget for the coming year. Bill said we do a compiled budget for the previous year and average it. Dave motioned that we accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Sarah, and the motion passed unanimously. We had two requests for reimbursement: Lydia for the software; and Jerry for some materials used in maintenance. Dave motioned, and Sarah seconded that we have Bill reimburse Jerry and Lydia for these costs. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Jerry wants to talk about closing the depot, the November potluck, and remind Sarah of the need to advertise the September Library reading.

### **DNR Topics**

We still don't have the updated insurance policy (the agent has not been in) that is needed for the Friends agreement. Jerry will send a signed copy of the agreement to Kevin.

There is movement on the Duluth property and documents on the agreement are completed. Duluth will have to put the trail back to the footprint that they found it in before the project began.

There is not much movement on the Verona High School. Closure of the trail is still expected in November.

The new Fitchburg kiosk, indicating that this is a trailhead, has been funded. We now are going to work around the contractor's schedule. The kiosk and cement may be two separate projects. Bill will pass contractor information to Kevin who will contact the contractor himself. The Friends have already paid for a bike repair stand and Kevin thinks this may be all that we will need to pay. The DNR would like to complete this project this year if possible.

DuMont mentioned a few spots on the trail that needed work due to deep sand.

### **Other Topics**

There is not a specific site for the Betlach bench. Jerry is working with Ron Betlach's family to get some suggestions. The bench will not be placed until next year.

Barbara Westphal sent an email with her comments (which are attached) about trail safety. She suggested: solar signs that lite up at trail crossings; painting the pavement in an obvious way to show the trail. Linda suggested a sign that says "high traffic area". Barbara wanted to make suggestions to the DOT/DNR about trail safety. The Friends are interested in a trail safety campaign this winter. Some of the concerns voiced include: people walking, running, biking with earbuds; walking on the wrong side of the trail; not alerting people when passing; and, biking speed. Brad said the DNR/WI Bike Federation have a brochure on trail etiquette. The brochure could help parents teach kids about trail safety/etiquette. Brad will bring some brochures to the next meeting. Bill suggested stapling a brochure to each trail pass. Some felt that we needed to work both on signage and use the etiquette brochure. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Work projects for November and October

Tom Meyer's suggested the following for potential work projects this fall: 1) Clear areas near roads that would help out with safety, 2) Repair the structure near Town Hall Road and clear vegetation from the rock outcroppings near this structure. Kevin has a group of Eagle Scouts already working on the second project. Sarah will contact Jeff Gorman about the part of the trail just east of Duluth that has been cleared of diseased and dead trees and see if the village has a plan to replant this area to hide the adjacent parking lot. This could be another potential project.

Rodney would like a list of projects that volunteers can work on such as pick up trash, maintenance on the kiosks, cut down noxious weeds, etc. on an "as volunteers have time" basis. There was a discussion about making a list of such projects

ATC - Dave is in contact with Chuck Tenyson who is part of the ATC opposition. He will forward the information the gets from Chuck to all of us.

There is potluck before the November meeting.

Bill will take the cash box of donations from the Depot.

Jerry had 40 people at the Depot for Ridgeway Days. Kids ruined the jamb on the caboose door. Jerry will close up the depot on the 23rd. He will get the paint, fix the door jamb, work on a toilet stain, and close things up.

Trail pass books (unsold tickets) need to be wrapped up.

The Ridgeway yearbooks have already been installed on a shelf in the depot.

Brad said the DNR is working with a contractor to remove dead ash trees and other trees on the trail. This project has gone on for a long time due to contractor equipment problems.

Kevin has not heard anything about ATV people wanting to use the MRT.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, October 14, 2019 at the Blue Mound Friends Shelter. Dave will chair the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Castello, Secretary