

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: August 10, 2020

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

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

After a delay due to Zoom problems the meeting opened at 6:00pm instead of the scheduled 5:30pm.

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the July 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of July balance of \$29,340.36 in the Farmers Savings Bank account. There has been lots of bike pass activity. Sarah moved to approve the financial report, Dave seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meetings agenda

None

DNR Topics

User Input

There have been user complaints about trail conditions in the Mount Horeb area. Between the area of Hwy 78 south and Town Hall Road DNR staff have been patching and raising up the level of the trail by adding screenings. They are hoping to do some grading along this section of the trail to improve drainage and washout areas on the trail. Bill will respond to the woman who emailed the complaint about the condition on this part of the trail and let her know about the repairs.

DNR staff did work on bridges 23, 24, 25 in the Riley area.

The Betlack bench is completed and ready to put in the ground. DNR will be in touch about invoicing Bill for the bench. Jerry will contact Sharon Betlack to get her input about the exact location of the bench.

DNR worked on the shelter west of Town Hall Road and braced main supports that were cracked to prepare it for the eagle scout project (putting a new roof on it). The new roof will be metal. They also hope the eagle scouts plan to replace the benches, paint the entire structure, replace a few of the squirrel chewed timbers in the roof itself, and brush out around the structure and stone outcropping behind it. Kevin thinks the eagle scouts are working on the roof this weekend or next. The eagle scout organizer was requesting \$700-\$800 for the project but has not updated Kevin on the original request. We don't owe the DNR any money for the work they have done on the shelter. If the eagle scouts do not brush out the stone outcropping in back of the shelter perhaps this could be a Friend's project.

The Fitchrona bridge has come to light as needing redecking on the entire bridge. The DNR will use a new process to fix the decking.

DNR will be mowing and chipping on the entire trail.

Kevin said there was nothing official about wearing masks on the trail. Currently they only have social distancing signs on the trail.

Ridgeway Train Depot Open House August 2

Jerry and Bill reported 16 people at the open house. One depot visitor, Carie Graves, was a 2 time olympian gold medalist in rowing (1984). The depot will be open in September. The farmers market will concurrently be taking place down by the baseball diamonds. Jerry and maybe Bill will be there. If anyone wants to volunteer contact Jerry.

Depot Gutters

The depot gutters have holes. Rodney Albers says they are half dime size, and are on three sides of the building. This could be a problem with ice build up where they drip. Jerry and Cletus thought we could patch them but Rodney feels it would be a lot of work to patch them and we should get estimates to replace the gutters.

Palmer thinks we should use galvanized, rounded bottom gutters and that we need to keep them as they are now (same material and shape) to keep the building on the historic register. Palmer said we need to pay attention to the color and the finish coat. Dave motioned to get an estimate to replace the gutters, Palmer seconded it, the motion passed unanimously. Rodney will be there when the gutter people come to look at the site for the estimate.

ATC

Many entities are challenging the recent ATC decision in court. Look at the Driftless Area Land Conservancy for the latest in what is going on with the ATC line.

Dave Pearson proposed sending an editorial to the Wisconsin State Journal, signed as Vice president of FMRT, objecting to NPR's allowing ATC to be a corporate sponsor. The DNR was not comfortable with this, nor were most of the meeting members. Dave will not send the editorial signed as VP of the FMRT.

September Meeting

The next meeting, Monday, September 14, 2020, will start at 5:30 pm. This will be a zoom meeting. Sarah will send out the new ID and password.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary