

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: November 9, 2020

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Minutes

Dave motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the October 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of October balance of \$27,181 in the Farmers Savings Bank account. We are almost done with trail pass collection. There are a few more bricks coming up. We have collected almost \$1515 in donations in Palmer's name. Dave motioned that we accept the treasurer's report, Linda seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meeting's agenda

Sarah would like the DNR to put up "Trail Crossing" signs on either side of the trail where it crosses Kleevenville Riley Road. Kevin and Brad will look into this. It is the township that puts up these signs.

DNR Topics

FMRT won an award for an outstanding Friends group. Sarah will send an article to the local papers about the award.

Jerry finished the Stewardship grant and it has been submitted. We will hear in February to see if we are awarded the money. We are asking for money for signage at the Riley Parking lot.

The bridge over Fitchrona road is being redecked this week.

A contractor finished installing six Black Hill spruce trees around the new Fitchburg kiosk (at the beginning of the trail head) There was a report that the pump at this kiosk was broken, Brad will look into this.

DNR staff completed mowing along the trail and it looks great.

The master plan is still being worked on.

Two documents were prepared to present to Duluth to have them restore the trail to its original condition. DNR is giving them a May 15, 2021 deadline.

DNR has no authority to regulate parking in the Mt Horeb bike shelter lot. We have asked Duluth to not dominate the lot.

There was a meeting between DNR, Dane Co. Parks, Verona Area School District and local snow mobile clubs. The snow mobile groups are looking for a place to park snow mobiles, potentially on school property.

Kevin received a hero award. This will also be in the article to the newspapers.

QR Code Project

Jerry is working on the QR codes and submitted a report to the granting agency.

Proposed DOT Military Ridge/Depot sign in Ridgeway

The Ridgeway board will meet tomorrow and consider this issue. We don't know if the sign will just be for the trail or the trail and the depot. The parking lot around the Depot is not all public parking. Kevin is working on an agreement with Ridgeway to get parking there. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Depot Gutters

Rodney has contacted 6 gutter companies to get estimates. Only Guttersmiths (out of Sun Prairie) got back to him with an estimate for new gutters, downspouts, and fasteners. Everyone felt that the estimate of \$8100 was too high. We would like to see if we can get some other estimates before making a decision. Bill recommended that we wait until next spring unless we get more estimates before that time. If we get more bids Jerry will contact us via email.

ATC

Dave attended the ATC zoom hearing today. The Driftless Defenders are alleging that two of the commissioners are bias. One was a lawyer for utility companies for many years. Another had many connections to utility companies. Also the proposed line will go through Wisconsin but no one from Wisconsin benefit from this power.

Donation to "Free Bikes 4 Kidz"

This is a non-profit organization that fixes donated bikes and gives them to youth in need. Bill will resend the article about this organization to the group. For each \$100 donated, Free Bikes 4 Kids gives a child a bike, helmet and headlight. Bill thought this could be an annual donation. Dave motioned that we give \$1000 for this year to this group, Linda seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Dave motioned that we skip the December meeting and meet next on the second Monday in January, the being January 11, 2021. Linda seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting, Monday, January 2021 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