

FMRT 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (2/8/21)

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Linda McMeen; Brad Bates, DNR; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Charlotte Jerney, Verona; Adam Maus, Fitchrona area; Daryl Hinz, Verona

All meeting members introduced themselves.

Kevin Swenson, DNR representative, said that in the next revision of the MRT master plan the DNR will look at the possibility of the DNR taking ownership of the Ridgeway depot.

Kevin said for now Brad and Kevin will still retain their trail responsibilities. There is a possibility that there will be a trail manager position but as of yet there has been no action on this position.

Financials

Bill and Lydia reported on financials for the year 2020.

The total income for the year is \$27,879.89. Total expenses for the year are \$17,246.62 with a net income of \$10,633.27. Income includes grants, donations, trail pass income. etc. Expenses include trail pass costs, utilities, kiosk repair and construction, insurance, signage, website costs, supplies for Himsel Shelter, etc.

The closing balance as of 12/31/2020 in the Farmer's Bank account was \$30,365.86. The closing Fidelity account balance as of 12/31/2020 was \$29,179.06, with a gain of \$5,724.24 in this account.

Bill motioned to approve the financial report, Dave seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Elections

Those running for and voted in for board positions include:

President: Jerry Wilson
Vice-President: Dave Pearson
Secretary: Sarah Castello
Treasurer: Bill Kalscheur

There were no nominations from the virtual floor.

Lydia moved that we elect all 4 at once, Dave seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Accomplishments of 2020, among others (list prepared by Jerry Wilson)

- Successfully implemented holding monthly Friends meetings via ZOOM. Special thank you to Sarah C. for coordinating these meetings!
- We lost long time friends leader and member Palmer Haynes. His contributions to the Trail, the Friends group and the environment continue to be invaluable.
- Obtained grant funding, purchased and installed new kiosk and bike repair station along the Trail in Fitchburg. Special thanks to Kevin S. and Brad B. for the time and person-power to make this project successful. (And special thanks to Jerry for the grant writing - added by Sarah).
- Implemented a Trail Safety Program placing signs along portions of the Trail addressing responsible trail use. Thanks to Sarah C. and others Involved in obtaining the signs and placing the signs along the Trail.
- Siting, preparing the site, obtaining, assembling, staining and installing a bench along the Trail near Co. Hwy P in memory of Ron Betlach. Special thanks to Sharon Betlach and family for funding almost all the costs for the project. Thanks to DNR Staff for preparing and installing the bench.
- Stained several kiosks along the Trail. Thanks to Ron and Patti Albers and Carol and Ray Clinton. Staining also involved Bill K. and Jerry W.
- Replacing the Ridgeway kiosk and all the assorted tasks to contract, request grant funding, accounting, approvals, and landscaping.
- Replacing the sit kiosk East of Mount Horeb (Himsel Kiosk). Special thanks to Paul Petzold for coordinating this Eagle Scout Project w/ Kevin S., and all his scout helpers. Also Brad B. and DNR Staff for sinking the new support beam and preparing the site.
- The first year of receiving mowing and trimming assistance from the Village of Ridgeway. Special thanks to Bruce Paull for seeing these negotiations through successfully.
- Partnered with Carol Murphy, Librarian, to do library readings at the depot.
- And lets not forget the monthly tasks that must be done to make the Friends operation run smoothly. Including but not limited to, Trail Pass Sale Coordination; Commemorative Brick Sales, ordering and placement; Lil Library maintenance and contents coordination, including Dodgeville Library Book Donations; Cleaning and opening the Depot for our monthly open house sessions and four Dodgeville Library book readings, including staffing those eight sessions; Website management and updating; Annual calendar preparation and printing; Trailside maintenance; Monitoring APT actions; Dealing with the plumber and Porta Potty providers; Providing community information and notices; and more things that must take place to keep us going.

Ideas for 2021 Projects

This item will be motioned to move to be addressed during the Friends February Monthly Meeting Agenda because many 2021 ideas are already in process, and February 8 attendees will be the same for both meetings.

Bill motioned to adjourn the annual meeting, Lydia seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.