

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: September 13, 2021

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Lydia Haynes; Rodney Albers; Adam Maus

At 5:45 the meeting was called to order.

Minutes

Bill motioned and Jerry seconded to accept the August 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Lydia pointed out that the minutes said you need Quick Books on your computer to do this work. She wanted to let other members know that the FMRT paid for Quick Books when she started so maybe the software can be switched from Lydia's computer or the FMRT can pay for the software for whomever takes over this task.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of August 2021 balance of \$46,210.83 in the Farmers Savings Bank account. We have collected over \$80,000 in trail pass sales so far this year. We have sold almost \$700 in brick sales this year. Sarah motioned and Dave seconded that we accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meetings agenda

None

Horribly Hilly

People who participated from our group included Bill, Dave, Rodney, Jerry, Carol Clinton, Patty Albers, and Rod Zentner. If you have comments on how to improve this event please contact Bill soon. This year there were lots of yellow jackets swarming over the food. Participation in the event was down this year. The event might be held the first week in June next year which corresponds/conflicts with trail days.

DNR Topics

Brad applied some herbicide to the center of the trail near Ridgeway (he worked all night) to kill vegetation and allow them to do a better job when they do the grading.

The DNR is gearing up for fall brush mowing.

Focus is going to be on the east end of the trail this year for tree removal (soft fiber trees, box elder, etc).

The Verona School District completed a storm water management project at the far western culvert .

There is lots of vegetation hanging down on the trail due to the heaviness of acorns and walnuts this year. DNR staff will do some pruning. They traditionally do this into November.

The DNR ordered a flail mower for the ToolCat that they have to cut back brush. It has a cab.

Stewardship grant applications are due soon. Our last discussion was about applying for money to put up a sign at the Riley parking lot. Jerry was concerned about submitting it again as this project was turned down last year. Kevin feels that it would be good to resubmit it just as it is. Last year they used Stewardship funds to fund great big projects and they only do this every so often so they will most likely be funding smaller projects, such as signs, this year. Sarah motioned and Lydia seconded it that we resubmit the same grant application this year. The motion passed unanimously.

There is no word on changing the price of trail passes for this year.

Rodney asked why there is no trail pass registration station at the Verona city parking lot on the trail. There is one at the Park-n-Ride on PB so the DNR has not put one at the downtown Verona site. They will consider this.

Meeting Locations

DNR members are still under covid restrictions preventing them from meeting with Friends groups inside state buildings so in October we will still meet at the depot. We will discuss November meeting places at the next meeting.

We will see about meeting at Epic in November. Sarah will look into this. Maybe we could position it as a meet and greet for Epic trail users. We could also ask Brix in Mount Horeb if we could meet there. Bill will do this.

Clearing the Backroom

Bill brought up that we need to go through the paperwork in the back room of the depot and decide what we want to keep. Jerry will pick some dates in September. Sarah, Jerry, Lydia and Bill will work on this.

ACT

No new ATC news.

QR Project

Not much new on this. Jerry might have someone who will change the hunter/gun part of the logo for free.

Open House

There were about 25 people at the Sunday Open House! Lots of them were interesting and knew about the history of the area. Jerry found that the caboose was open when he got here. This door is tricky to close and lock.

Mary Kay Baum's Art Offer

Sarah will respond to Mary Kay's email and ask her to come to the October (Ridgeway Depot) or November meeting (location to be determined) and show us some of her art work that she has offered to donate.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 11, 2021, 5:30 pm, at the Ridgeway Depot..

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary