

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: May 9, 2022

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

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

Minutes

Bill motioned and Dave seconded to accept the April 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of April 2022 balance of \$29,915.08 in the Farmers Savings Bank checking account. We made our first payment to WiDNR for 2022 trail passes. Bill delivered REI their fifth installment of trail passes (1,000) on Sunday. Notices went out to our vendors that their first payment to FMRT is due by May 30. Passes are going well. The electric bill for the depot went way up last month. We will try and determine why it increased. Sarah motioned and Dave seconded to accept the financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda

Nothing is added

DNR Topics

The ATC trail crossing is wrapping up.

The 18/151 closure by Verona continues.

DNR is working on hiring LTEs, none have been hired yet. They are having a hard time getting people to apply.

DNR hopes to get the trail graded in late May, early June.

Eagle Point Solar is planning on installing solar panels on the maintenance building in the Blue Mounds State Park in June. FMRT may receive a request for funds from the FBMSF.

Rodney gave Brad a list of problematic pot holes. Immediate repair might be an issue since DNR has no LTE staff.

There was discussion about trail access through individual properties backing up to the trail. DNR met with Jeff Gorman of MH and discussed their concerns about the paths causing erosion, ADA regulations, costs, sight lines, etc. Any property that a trail access path goes through would need to be public property or property the DNR would have permanent rights to.

DNR is working to get the part of the trail just past the 78 south intersection going west regraded. They also may be slightly changing the grade of the trail along here.

There was discussion about grading the trail and taking down the center grasses and taking out the ruts, and taking down the aggregate that has built up on the sides. The DNR is working on this.

Incentive grant

FMRT got an incentive grant for \$2500 to be used for the entrance sign in the Riley parking lot. We will have to decide on what kind of sign we want. We had a quote from a contractor for material and installation. DNR will get back to us about from whom and how to purchase the sign.

September Meeting

EPIC has asked us to submit another space request form. Jerry hopes to concentrate his talk on how EPIC employees can work with the FMRT.

Meeting to clean the depot windows and talk depot history

This work session starts at 3:00 on May 22. We will be washing the windows (taking out the storms), reglazing some windows in the caboose, and meeting with Carol Murphy to talk about the history of the depot. Workers will need ladders, screw drivers, etc.

Depot Special Openings

June 11, from 11-2, the depot will be open in conjunction with Hyde Days, Rodney Albers and his wife Patty will be there. The key for caboose is in the utility room by the water heater.

May 26th, from 10:30-12:15, the depot will be open for school visits from Barneveld and Dodgeville schools. Sessions will last about 45 minutes. The second group comes at 12:15. Jerry, Bill and Dave will be there.

Webpage

Adam made some changes to content, updated meeting minutes, updated courtesy rules, and changed wording on the membership request form letting members elect if they want their names published as donors (in the minutes) at the end of each month. Adam is thinking of taking off the icon on the left of the membership page and putting on the QR code that goes to the website.

Facebook site

Ethan Nelson sent an email to the group. The facebook page is live, <https://facebook.com/FriendsofMilitaryRidgeTrail>. Adam will add the facebook link to the website. People at the group were not able to access it, and only found the facebook page referring to the ice cream social Sjolinds sponsored years ago. We need to take this down. Ethan is looking for more content for the page. The public is only able to interact with our posts.

Trail Event

Sarah and Linda McMeen are organizing a scavenger hunt on the trail. They will need the following: village permission to use the shelter; s special use permit (Kevin will send it to Sarah to fill out); a certificate of liability (Kevin will get back to Sarah on this). Bill suggested starting at the Waltz Park shelter and either going west (would only have to cross Brian Street) or east (no streets to cross). After the hunt participants can stop at the shelter for ice cream (maybe Culver's will donate this). Sarah motioned to explore a scavenger hunt, Dave seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Wheelchair accessibility to Depot

Haily Roessler, the Ridgeway Clerk, said Ridgeway submitted a grant to the DNR for a grant to replace the sidewalk on the east side of the depot to make the building handicap accessible. This will be 2023 money. She also talked about doing something to improve the parking lot.

ATC

Ignore Dave's email encouraging people to come to the Iowa county board meeting. They are coming up with a new strategy.

Linda Lynch Memorial

Bill has nothing new on this.

June Meeting

The next FMRT meeting will be June 13, 2022, 5:30 at the Ridgeway depot.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary