

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: March 13, 2023

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds Park Friend's Shelter, Blue Mounds Park, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Lydia Haynes; Adam Maus; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Karyn Windmoeller; Elizabeth Brady; Bruce Pauli; Jake Donar, Conservation Warden; Joel Xavier; Rodney Albers

Minutes

Bill motioned and Dave seconded to accept the February 13, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of February 2023 checking account balance of \$42,528.43. Dave motioned that we accept the minutes as presented, Sarah seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

FMRT received a check for \$200 from Black Hawk giving fund, donated by Metronics employees, through YourCause. Bill got information from the bank saying it all was legitimate. Black Hawk appears to be a service that companies can use for their employees to donate money to a non-profit. Bill will cash it.

DNR Report

Jake Donar, Conservation Warden, was a visitor to the meeting. Wardens enforce the law on all state lands (hunting, fishing, snow mobiles, bike trails, water violations, pollutants, etc.). He works directly with the county on complaints. If the Warden can't address the complaint the issue goes to the sheriff's/jp department. The Warden plans to do another check this year on Memorial Day weekend for trail passes. Last time the trail pass check was done it yielded a lot of money. Wardens are part of a division of the DNR. Mike Burns is the conservation Warden for Iowa County. Dave suggested that he attend a meeting also.

In Verona the DNR is dealing with neighbor issues related to landscaping. They are being resolved. The agreement for paving the trail through Verona is moving forward. Paving is about 5 years out and engineers are now studying the trail.

FMRT received a message from an individual who wanted the Friends to post on our website her concern about the water levels in the Badger Mill Creek. The DNR, in an effort to lower the phosphorous levels in the area (and the Sugar River), has turned off the aerator that supplies water to this creek. According to the individual, the previous discharge adds 3.6 million gallons to the stream daily. She felt the lack of water will degrade the biology of the stream. The FMRT decided to table this issue, as they do not have enough information.

The Village of Mount Horeb is meeting next Monday, including park planners, historic commissions, etc, to discuss the old fire station parking lot rezoning and development of the space. If the proposed development is approved it will result in the loss of the parking lot. A new parking lot, adjacent to the trail, was required by the DNR before the village could move forward with the previous plan to develop the bike shelter/parking area into a green space for the village. This plan is not at the time moving forward. There was discussion about who uses the parking lot next to the bike shelter. Kevin pointed out that there is nothing in the statute which prohibits anyone from parking in the lot. The lot is not just for trail users. Kevin is going to the meeting.

Snow mobile signs are placed within 100 yards of city limits alerting snow mobilers to slow down. The DNR gave these signs to municipalities to put up.

The DNR is working with the village of Barneveld on its greenway plan. There will be an access plan or easement to Birch Lake. Barneveld is also freshening up signage in the village.

Snowmobile season is wrapping up. The barrels can be removed from the area near the trail in back of the depot.

FMRT plans to post on our facebook and webpage asking users not to use the trail as the thaw comes out of ground if the trail is soft. The advice will be: don't use the trail if it leaves a rut or mark (leave no trace). Light foot traffic is okay unless it too leaves ruts.

Friend's Calendar for 2023

Lydia is working on the calendar for 2023. The following are items for the calendar or events/dates that need to be resolved:

- Carol Murphy will get back to Jerry about dates for the open houses and book reading.
- The Scavenger Hunt is planned for Saturday, July 1, from 8:30 -12:00 but Sarah needs to confirm that the shelter is available.
- Lydia will ask Meg if she is willing to take people out on nature walks.
- The Horribly Hilly race is happening again this year and FMRT will man/woman an aide station.
- FMRT monthly meeting dates need to go on the calendar.
- The Ridgeway Home Talent Team may be playing on Sundays at the same time as the depot open houses. Bruce will check.
- Ridgeway will have its 4th of July celebration.
- Hyde Days is up in the air due to a bridge repair.
- The depot cleanup time will be before the April meeting, starting at 3:00 with cleanup followed by the meeting.
- Jerry thought Lydia should leave in the comment "bring a bag along on a walk and clean up the trail".

Lydia will send a draft out before the next meeting so we can finalize the calendar at the next meeting.

Stewardship Grant

Stewardship funds have been approved. Rodney is working on language for the quarry kiosk and Jerry is working on language for the depot kiosk. Kevin asked if we could make a deadline for the May meeting for the kiosk language; Brad has a relative willing to work on the kiosk design. We are asking on the FMRT website and facebook pages for people to give information and pictures related to the quarry and depot. Bruce will also ask on the Ridgeway and Barneveld community facebook pages. Bill will be getting a check from the DNR for this project.

Pumping Station 17

Below are Adam's notes from the 2/6/2023 public meeting about the sewer project in Verona:

- Pump Station 17 Force Main Relief Construction traffic will cross Military Ridge in two places (Goose Lake and in Verona by Badger-Mill Creek Road / by the Hockey Stadium). Late 2023 - Summer 2024 however the trail should be open the entire time
- Madison Sewerage District will provide advanced signage, detour maps, and communicate with groups about detours.
- Minor detour by Goose Lake - between mile 1 and 2 (impacted late summer/fall 2023 to early 2024)
- Traffic control near Badger-Mill Creek road - between mile 3 and 4 (impacted late 2023 to summer 2024)

- Two phases of construction but a crushed gravel trail will be made and will have local traffic control such as flagging / stop signs when needed. I asked the project manager how this could impact bikes and roller bladers and she assured me that the type of gravel used will be suitable for wheels.
- Trail will be repaved after construction

Caboose Window repair

There was no update on the window repair. Bruce would like someone else to call Mike Larson. Dave will call him. Bruce will send Mike's email address to Dave.

Brick pricing

Bill proposed a new cost plan for brick pricing based on increases in shipping costs, Dave seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. Friends need to put new signs in the kiosks.

Horribly Hilly

Friends are interested in running a station in Black Earth to aid riders. Estimated numbers needed per shift are about 10-12 Bill thought. Bill will send something to the Friends asking for volunteers. We will also put something on Facebook and the webpage asking for volunteers since the sign up for volunteers has changed.

Facebook

Nothing new

Projects List

A list of future projects needs to be put together. Possible inclusions are: redoing the Riley observation deck; overhauling the brick bed in Mount Horeb; redoing the Ridgeway shrub bed in front of the depot (this depends on the extent of the paving of the parking lot in front of the depot).

Webpage

Adam updated the vendor list that Bill sent out.

Mound Vue Garden Club Request

The Mound Vue Garden Club plans to put native plants in the areas of the parking lot that stick into the lot (on the south side) that are planted in trees. There are 4 such little plots. The Garden Club wants to use plants purchased from Plant Dane which is a not-for-profit nursery. They are planning on buying 60 plants, mostly grasses and sedges, that are shade tolerant. The cost is \$165 or \$11 per flat of 4 plants. They asked if the FMRT would pay for some or all of the cost. Bill motioned we pay full amount, Lydia seconded it, motion passed unanimously.

Ridgeway - Village Improvement

Hailey Roessler, Ridgeway Village Clerk sent the following email:

I won't be able to make it tonight but here is an update from the village regarding their Stewardship grant and 2023 Ridgeway Park Improvements:

We are working with Parkitecture and Iconica Engineering to perform landscaping and engineering for the 2023 Park Improvement project. The board will select a surveyor to complete a topographical survey on March 14th at their regular meeting. Once the survey is completed, Parkitecture will begin making their recommendations on how to best approach the improvements to electrical safety, ball field lighting, public parking, and accessibility to the village park and Ridgeway Depot.

Please be advised that the public parking area in front of the depot is literally right in front of the depot itself. The rest is private property. Map attached. All work this summer (construction anticipated mid-July through October) will take place on public property - the village green and village park areas. Any work disturbing the depot area, will be discussed directly with the FOTMRT board as appropriate.

I look forward to discussing details further as soon as possible. Thank you! Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I am happy to help.

Hailey E. Roessler
Village of Ridgeway Clerk/Treasurer

Next Meeting

The next FMRT meeting will be April 10, 2023 at the Ridgeway Depot. Depot cleaning will start at 3:00 The meeting will start at at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary