

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Brad Bates DNR: Bruce Paull; Adam Maus, Webpage Administrator

A broken window in the depot (corner window near parking lot and caboose) needs to be replaced

Minutes

Adam motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the July 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed a balance of \$47,927.67 in the Farmer's Savings Bank as of July 30, 2023. Since then \$10,000 has been paid out to the DNR for trail passes and money has been taken in from vendors. Friends need to look at the utility bills to see if the new water meter is resulting in lower bills. We also need to know if garbage pick up is a part of the bill and if so, could we be exempt from this part of the bill. We got a \$200 donation from Dennis and Cheryl Henry of Roscoe, Illinois. Sarah motioned that we accept the financial report as presented, Adam seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Ridgeway Village Accessibility Project

The wheel chair access part of the project will result in a wider concrete path (right next to the bricks between the light pole and the bricks), down the ramp, and across the bike trail (this will be paved) and further down to afford access to the park. Kevin suggested pulling the bricks and having a slab put below (a concrete base to put the pavers on top of) to keep the pavers from sinking. They will have to bust out the old sidewalk to put in the wider sidewalk. Lydia motioned that Sarah send an email to Hailey requesting the village to put in a base of cement under where the bricks are. Sarah seconded it, the motion passed unanimously. Bill and Jerry will pull the bricks and put them in the depot.

Letter from Karen White

The DNR and others received a letter with pictures from Karen White expressing her concern about problems on the trail. The DNR is looking into this.

Iowa County Book Club

Iowa County is creating a history oriented book club and would like to meet at the depot occasionally. Lydia motioned, Adam seconded, and it passed unanimously, that Jerry will let them know that they could use the depot, but only April through September.

Solar Panels on Bike Shelter

Brad needs to get bids for the metal roof. He doesn't know if the roof project is funded yet so the solar panel project is on hold until the new roof is assured.

Tax Exempt Number

We need to use this number when we buy things (like the sign).

Open House

17 people attended the last open house.

Caboose windows

Brad sent an email to Spirit Level Construction in Ridgeway asking if they were interested in replacing the windows.

Webpage

Adam will talk to Bill so Bill can set up another bank account for donations via the online membership form.

Facebook

According to Bruce we have 108 followers.

Depot left out of the fiber optic improvement plan (no hook up)

Bruce thinks we should ask for a fiber optic line to the depot. We will want the line placed before the new parking lot is put in. Bruce will contact the village and the fiber optic people about it.

Open House and closing the depot

September 3rd is the next (and last) open house. Jerry will be here. It will also be the day of the Ridgeway farmer's market. There will be one more library meeting after the open house so we can't close up the depot until this takes place.

The next FMRT meeting will be September 11, 2023 at the Ridgeway Depot. The meeting will start at at 5:30. The October meeting will be on the porch of the Riley Tavern.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary