

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: January 8, 2024

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds State Park Friend's Shelter

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Bill Kalscheur; Treasurer; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates DNR: Bruce Paull

Minutes

Bill motioned that the November 2023 minutes be approved with the change suggested, the motion was seconded by Dave. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed a balance of \$45,253.58 in the Farmer's Savings Bank as of December 31, 2023. The Fidelity account had a balance of \$32,891.92. As of this meeting REI owes a trail pass payment of \$5,405 and Chalet Landaus owes a payment of \$792.50.

The Zeffy account has a balance of \$105.

Ray and Carol Clinton made a generous donation to the FMRT in December.

Dave made a motion to approve the financial report , Sarah seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dave motioned that the FMRT board members meet annually and decide on an annual budget that would cover existing, recurring expenses and detail what can be spent that year on projects. Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Officer Ballot for 2024

The same people will be running again this year for office. Other suggestions are welcome. Jerry stated that this is his last year as President.

DNR topics

The Epic bridge project is at a standstill. Epic is now reconsidering the possibility of de-channelizing the stream in the area being considered in conjunction with the proposed bridge.

MH is planning on paving the trail from 4th street to 8th street due to significant erosion problems.

The person who used to plow the paved portion of the trail in Verona is no longer plowing it. This will now be done by the city.

DNR staff placed construction barrels to block snowmobilers from traveling on the brick deck at the Ridgeway Depot.

DNR completed ditch mowing before Christmas.

There were no updates on either the Riley or Kleevenville parking lot projects. The Riley project will accommodate snowmobiles.

DNR is still working with DOT on the culvert at 18/151 to prevent flooding. This work is being done in anticipation of widening 18/151 in this area.

Barneveld is still working on the T connector and trail crossings. DNR is working on an agreement with them related to the land adjacent to the trail

The DNR has placed monitors on the trail to record trail usage. The most effective monitor is placed in Verona, one is next to the Mount Horeb bike shelter, and two are yet to be placed (Dodgeville, Riley, ...?).

Ridgeway Clerk

The new Ridgeway village deputy clerk, Shyanne Cushman, has started her position. Sarah will check with her for the best email address to be sure she gets the minutes.

2024 Calendar

Rodney has largely completed the calendar for 2024. He is now on vacation and doesn't have access to his computer. Bill pointed out that if changes were made to the calendar we could always post new calendars in the kiosks. Daryl Hines would like to place a calendar in a kiosk in Verona.

Sandwich Board Inserts

The group discussed what inserts we may need for our various activities. Sarah will send a list out of possible inserts. She will also contact the Dodgeville Library about advertising the story times at the depot caboose.

Mount Horeb Bike Shelter Solar Panels

The DNR said re-roofing the shelter is still on track for 2024 or 2025.

Facebook Page and Webpage

Adam was unable to attend the meeting.

Jerry (and Bruce) reported problems uploading things to the facebook page if the upload isn't done quickly.

Caboose Window Repair / Replacement

Dave reported the following: Bill and I met with Gary 10/17, Friday afternoon; we did some exploratory determination of where the studs were and made plans for replacing the windows in the Spring as Gary will not be available to work on the project until then. We did not tear into the area around one of the windows so we did not need to cover the opening with a tarp or plastic.

Next Meeting

The next FMRT meeting will be at 5:30 February 12, 2024 at the Blue Mounds Friends Shelter at Blue Mounds State Park, Blue Mounds, WI. This will be both the annual meeting (to take place first) and the monthly meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary