

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: May 13, 2024

Meeting Location: Mount Horeb Public Library, Mount Horeb, WI

June 2024 Meeting

There will be no in person meeting in June 2024. Anyone with business to transact should do so via email. The next in person meeting will be July 8, 2024. All are encouraged to volunteer for the FMRT Black Earth Rest Stop for the Horribly Hilly event via the email site at:

<https://www.bikesignup.com/Race/Volunteer/WI/BlueMounds/HorribleHillyHundreds>

May Meeting Location/Chair

Rodney organized the Mount Horeb Library as a new meeting place for this month's meeting. The group met at 5:30 and waited to start the meeting until 6:00 in the hopes that new people would attend and the first half hour would be spent on introductions and explanations of the Friends activities.

The meeting was chaired by Dave in Jerry's absence. Dave brought a cake and ice cream to celebrate his birthday (which is May 13). Thanks Dave!

Friends attending: Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Brad Bates, DNR; Lydia Haynes; Adam Maus; Thomas Meyer; Rodney Albers; John Helmenstine; Bruce Paull

Minutes

Bill motioned that the April 2024 minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Rodney. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial report showed a balance of \$52,735.47 in the Farmer's Savings Bank as of April 30, 2024. There was lots of activity in the account (mostly trail pass sales). FMRT has collected \$21,288 in 2024 for trail passes so far.

The Zeffy account showed no activity this month monetarily. We did have one new member who joined via Zeffy.

Sarah motioned to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Lydia and passed unanimously.

Proposed Expenditures for 2024

There was a brief meeting after the April 2024 meeting (Bill, Dave, Jerry, Sarah, John and Lydia). This group decided to set aside \$30,000 for expenditures for the year 2024. The following estimated amounts were allocated for expenditure in 2024:

1. QR code signage - \$2500
2. Depot and quarry signage- \$2500
3. Palmer project - \$15,00 over two years (maybe we will get a stewardship project grant) including earmarked donations totaling \$1,520)
4. Purchase of additional trail counters for the DNR - \$2,000
5. Port-a-potty at Hwy P \$800
6. Lynda Lynch bench \$1,600
7. Keith Sincox bench \$1,600
8. Way finder signs \$3,000
9. Depot and caboose repairs/monthly costs - \$3,000
10. 10. Bikes for Kids \$1,000

Linda Lych Memorial Bench

The Lynch family donated \$500 towards a memorial bench for Linda Lynch to be installed in Ridgeway.

DNR Topics

MMSD project in Verona - MMSD will replace the section of the trail that was damaged. This will be done once the black top places open for the year.

The DNR did mild grading on the trail from Riley Road to Ridgeway.

Epic - The proposed bridge through the wetland will be addressed later in the meeting.

The substation in Mount Horeb just west of Hwy 78 is done and the trail is paved (about 30 feet).

East of Hwy 78 (in front of Fink's house) is a hidden cattle crossing. DOT is proposing removing this. This might result in closure of the trail.

A contractor is setting up to put in drain tile along the trail and pave the trail from 4th to 8th in Mount Horeb in the next few weeks. This will result in about a 7 day closure of the trail (the project is weather dependent).

Ridgeway (John Kahl's driveway area) has a very aggressive ditch which has been repaired.

There is an old agricultural crossing west of this (John Kahl's driveway) that is under negotiation for closing by DOT, however, there is a landlocked property at the end of this crossing.

The quarry and depot signs are at the DNR Department of Communications, which needs to approve content.

The crossing lights (push button operated) on 8th street in Mount Horeb are unfortunately on the wrong side. Bikes have to dismount and walk over to the other lane to push the button. Concerns about this should be sent to the Village of Mount Horeb.

Bike to Work Day

DNR is doing a table with friends June 5 for the Bike to Work Week event at the Fitchburg Trailhead from 3-5pm. DNR has a table with some give aways. Trail passes will be sold. Dave Pearson is volunteering for this, Adam will be backup.

Sign Boards

Signs are at the printer. Bill needs them by 2nd week in June for the Horribly Hilly. Garage sale signs for the scavenger hunt will be priced too. It is okay to buy them if under \$50 (or maybe more).

Caboose

There is nothing to mail the siding to (this was determined by Mike Larson). Badger, who did the old siding job, said there was no strapping to nail the siding to at the time the initial work was done. The structure underneath is rotten and there are places where the siding is buckling. The flashing is tilting into the caboose which is causing water to run in and further rot the siding. Badger alerted FMRT to the problems when they did the original work and the FMRT decided to go ahead with the cosmetic work although they knew it would cause problems down the road. Also the door will not close enough to make the deadbolt work. Dave was able to close and lock it. There are 4 problematic windows (the window frames are rotten allowing the windows to slide down). The caboose was originally a gift. John was wondering if this could be a project that the FMRT and the Iowa County Historical Society could work on together. The caboose is probably on DNR property. We decided to look into grants. Further discussion on this, and will be on the agenda next month.

Linda Lych Memorial Bench

The Lynch family donated \$500 towards a memorial bench for Linda Lynch to be installed in Ridgeway. Linda spear headed the depot project and was past president of the FMRT for a while. The family has no preference where the bench is located.

Keith Sincox Memorial Bench

Keith was also a past president. Could we combine the Linda Lynch and Keith Sincox benches and put them outside the depot? These could replace the Aldo Leopold benches by the depot. We will look into locating benches by the depot in Ridgeway.

Brad recommended composite benches. These are in front of the Blue Mounds pool. They are cast iron (painted) and composite wood. We decided to move ahead with getting benches.

Bridge #26 and Palmer Hayes Overlook

The DNR is still waiting for development projects to be approved.

EPIC Bridge Project

Adam asked what the FMRT position is on the project. The Sugar River water people were in favor of the project due to the remand project that Epic plans to undertake. Adam motioned that based on the information we currently have we are opposed to the bridge project due to ecological and aesthetic reasons. We could change our position if more information comes to light. After discussion Adam retracted his motion. The FMRT was very disappointed about the lack of information publicly given about the project.

Brad thought that we could get the DNR Wetland to give a presentation on this issue.

Bill will resend who to contact about your individual feelings on the project. The group will not take a stand on the project.

Ridgeway Project

The asphalt is done. Light poles are being put in. The bike rack will be moved due to accessibility. The bricks were not disturbed.

Horribly Hilly

Go to the Horribly Hill Hundreds website to volunteer for this event.

Facebook and Webpage

Bruce asked for comments on the page. Events can be promoted on the page. Bill brought up the Sugar River Ramble.

Adam put the information about the Epic bridge website on the webpage. It got a lot of hits the last few days. Adam will keep putting up supporting information about the proposed Epic project.

Rodney

Rodney will not be coming to meetings any longer and turned in his kiosk keys. He will continue to do kiosk staining.

Next Meeting

There will be no in-person meeting in June. Anyone with Friends business to transact should do so by email. The next meeting will be July 8, 2024 at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway, WI.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary