

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: July 8, 2024

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Lydia Haynes; Adam Maus; Thomas Meyer; John Helmenstine; Bruce Paull

Minutes

Bill motioned that the May 2024 minutes be approved. There was no June 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Lydia. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial report showed a balance of \$49,737.48 in the Farmer's Savings Bank as of June 30, 2024. Payment of \$500 from Friends of Blue Mounds for the Horribly Hilly was received. Norb Scribner donated to the Friends.

Fidelity statements showed that as of June 30 we have \$37,678 in our Fidelity investment account.

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

DNR Topics

The MMSD (Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District) project in Verona was wrapped up.

City of Verona, school administrators, snow mobile clubs, and DNR, met to discuss access to the trail. Paving of the trail from the PB park and ride to the Verona High School is contingent on agreement among all these players.

The culvert under 18/151 is flooded. Given the current structure of the bridge and the highway there is nothing the DNR can do about this.

The DNR is almost ready for the repaving and expanding of the parking lot in Riley, and building the Kleevenville parking lot.

Paving the stretch of the trail between 4th and 8th streets in Mount Horeb is completed. Lots of rip rap was laid down in this section to try and prevent erosion.

The village of Mount Horeb has started work on the rest station in Mt. Horeb (on South 2nd street), There was rot around the base of the building. DNR might help out financially with this project.

Barneveld Memorial Park work is still ongoing. Construction may be held up for a while due to geology (bedrock).

DNR mowed again this month. They are still removing and clearing trees downed by the storms.

Special events taking place on the trail are still being sent by DNR (Kevin) to Adam and Bruce and then posted on the Web page and Facebook site.

The Epic proposed bridge has gone through water regulation review and permitting. They are now discussing restoration of the wetland. Epic had until 6/19 to supply information to the DNR. After this date the DNR decided they needed more information.

Horribly Hilly

The FMRT food/drink station at the race was successful. FMRT ran out of some of the foods/beverages. The J hook up for the hose, so participants could both drink from the hose and spray themselves, worked well. Lots of Friends helped at the station.

Scavenger Hunt

The hunt had 35 kids, 25 adults participating. The event went well.

Caboose windows

Dave said the caboose door is difficult to lock. John was able to lock it. Dave has a contractor that is willing to work on the building he hopes. There was a discussion of how much money to spend on the caboose. LaFayette Historical Society just refurbished a caboose and Bruce will talk to them about what was done and how much it cost. Dave will try and get a quote on the cost from a builder he knows. Bruce will get a quote from Amish builders that he knows.

Linda Lynch and Keith Since Memorial Benches and Bridge #26 (with the bump out to facilitate turtle observation)

There is nothing new on these projects Brad was not at the meeting (on vacation) and has been super busy clearing downed trees along the trail.

Ridgeway Project

The sidewalk in front of and next to the building is great and the project is completed. Now we need to start tending to, or redoing the plantings in front of the depot. Sarah wondered if the Village of Ridgeway could dig everything out of the bed, including the many volunteer walnut trees, then FMRT could start over with new plantings. It was suggested that maybe the garden club in Ridgeway would be willing to work on this site. Sarah will contact this group (Ridgeway Garden Club). They have a facebook page. Remediating this bed is on our to do list. John will weed the bed.

Air Filter in the Depot

Bruce said the depot air filter was up in the ceiling and may need to be changed.

Depot Open House

John wanted to open the depot in October and November. We will add the October open house to our events calendar. John will be opening the depot more often (he plans to open the depot 2 Sundays a month). The last Ridgeway Framers Market is October 13. Bruce has been opening the depot earlier (11:00) to coincide with the times that the Farmer's Market is open.

Facebook and Webpage

There were small updates to the webpage. Adam will post the new calendar when it comes out.

Calendar

Rodney is no longer doing the calendar. The calendar will be revised (by Lydia for this one time with Jerry's help) to reflect the new Open House days, times and other events. Once the calendar is updated we will need to repost it in the kiosks.

Money Expenditures

Tom Meyers would like future consideration, at another meeting, of FMRT long term goals/planning/priorities and consideration of how to use the money we have and that we take in due to trail pass sales. He felt we needed to consider if we are being reactionary rather than proactive. There was discussion about the use of volunteers and ways to better use the skills/energy of people who join the Friends but don't want to come to meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 12, 2024 at the Ridgeway Depot, in Ridgeway, WI.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary