Friends of Military Ridge Trail Monthly Meeting
Meeting Date: June 8th, 2026
Meeting Location: Ridgeway Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Adam Maus, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Bruce Paull; Paul Hutchins

Dave chaired the meeting in Jerry's absence.

Highlights

- Volunteer Opportunity: Sign up to volunteer at the refreshment station in Black Earth for the Horribly Hilly Hundreds bike ride this Saturday, June 13th.
- Construction on the Epic bridge near mile marker 7 will start June 12th and go for around 15 months. Pay attention to trail signage in case of detours.

Minutes
Bill motioned that the May minutes sent out on May 18th be approved, Paul seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Financial Reports
Bill sent out the financial report on June 1st. The financial report showed a balance of $56,504.54 in the Farmer's Savings Bank as of May 29th. The Zeffy account had $1,262.00. We didn't receive a report a Kate before the meeting.

We made one payment to the DNR for trail passes last month and will make another this month. We received payments for trail passes from a few vendors.

Adam motioned to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Paul and it passed unanimously.

DNR Topics
DNR trail crew worked on trail and bridge repair this past month. They've also been handling a steady number of complaints. Most involve bridges, trail conditions, or eBikes. The rain in April and May caused a lot soft spots to form so they are trying to address those as quickly as they can.

A reroute for the Epic bridge project near Mile Marker 7 will start June 12th and last about 15 months. There will be "rolling" detours around the construction. Reroutes will likely run along the frontage road which has limited traffic. DNR will also be doing some borings in the area of the construction.

In addition to the Epic Bridge project, DNR will also have detours in Fall as they replace some bridges in the Verona area.

Construction on First St. in Mt. Horeb is starting this week. There will be little detours that will continue for a couple of months.

DNR plans to start on the Mt. Horeb Shelter restoration in August and continue through early December.

DNR didn't get a full trail crew this year so some trail work may go a little slower.

Some eBikers have been making deep ruts on the trail and DNR is filling those holes as soon as they can.

Some people have been peeling trees to build a fort in the Barneveld area. DNR sent a warden to check it out.

Wayfinder Signage Project
Kevin will follow up with Jerry.

Friends of Badger Mill Creek Conservancy
The Friends of Badger Mill Creek Conservancy periodically does invasive species removal and restoration work in the Verona area and reached out to us. Bill talked with them. When they have projects scheduled, they'll contact us and we'll let our volunteers know about the opportunity.

Repairs to Depot and Caboose
We received a quote from Andrew from Valued Construction, LLC in Middleton to make repairs to the Depot with a bid proposal that came out to $38,325 for the siding but it didn't include the gutters.

After discussing it, we have to decide if we are willing to pay that much for the repairs. We could use our donations or Fidelity account. We would like to know more about the specifics such as what the proposal means when it mentions epoxy paint and painting all surfaces.

Bill will talk to Andrew and say we are still looking for contractors and also ask whether we can break the work down into chunks over multiple years. Paul suggested if we are looking for contractors, we could put an ad in newspapers.

If we are interested in moving forward, we would need to get more specifics as well as have someone from the group help move the project along.

We tabled our discussion until the next meeting.

Donation and Project Designation for Donation in Memoriam of Cletus Schwoerer
Jane Schwoerer emailed us about putting money towards a memorial project. Bill asked her if she had anything in mind. He suggested a plaque in the depot or a bench.

Donation for Riley-related project
A possible donor from the Riley area reached out and would like to put their name on a project. Bill asked them to think of a project and the amount that they would like to spend.

Donations
Jerry is working on paperwork around the anonymous donation we received. We could use the money for the Wayfinder sign project.

Ridgeway 2027 Main Street / HHH Project and Historical Sites
Ridgeway will start reconstructing Main Street in 2027. We talked about whether there are any historical sites that could be affected. The depot and caboose are not considered official historical sites.

Facebook Page and Webpage
Adam updated the website with the events that Kevin sent out and updated the trail construction section.

Bruce has been posting events and promoting content from other groups in the area.

Horribly Hilly Hundred: Black Earth Water Stop
Don't forget to sign up to volunteer to help at the refreshment station for the Horribly Hilly Hundred! This year the station is in Veteran's Memorial Park in Black Earth.

Bill hasn't seen the volunteer list. Bruce will share about the event and where it is located on Facebook.

Miscellaneous
- Bruce had an electrician look at the lamp light and who suspected that they used interior wiring to hook up the light which could have a break or hole in it.
- Bill suggested we could use some of our project money to haul out the garbage and brush in the quarry, at some point.

Next Meeting
The next meeting will be July 13th at the Ridgeway Depot in Ridgeway, WI at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Maus
Secretary