

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: October 11, 2021

Meeting Location: Ridgeway Train Depot, Ridgeway, WI

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Lydia Haynes; Adam Maus

Meeting called to order at 5:41

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the September 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of September 2021 balance of \$ 40,314.59 in the Farmers Savings Bank account. The Fidelity account has \$32,200.93 at the end of this quarter. Trail pass sales come to a standstill at this point. We still owe money to the DNR for trail passes. Dave motioned and Sarah seconded that we accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions to this meeting's agenda

none

DNR Topics

Flail Mower

DNR is still waiting for the flail mower to be shipped. This mower will be used to keep vegetation along the trail pushed back.

Future Projects

Kevin met with Missy van Landen (Section Chief) and Sarah Rigelman, formerly from Dane County Parks. Kevin may invite Sarah Rigelman to a future FMRT meeting. The three toured Verona. They are starting to draft a MOU with the city of Verona, to give Verona authority to start planning the paving of the trail from PB to the high school. The DNR required that snow mobile parking space be guaranteed by the city of Verona in order to pave the trail. There was discussion about what month we wanted to invite Sarah Rigelman to our meeting.

The three also went to Riley where there is interest by the DNR in doubling the size of the Riley parking lot. Riley Tavern people use the parking lot and vice versa. The sign that the Friends are proposing will help with identifying the lot at this complicated corner (road wise). Jerry asked for another bike rack there.

The DNR is still also interested in developing a parking lot on P near Kleveenville (the NE side of the trail).

State Friends of Wisconsin Meeting

The FMRT members were invited to the 10/26 statewide Friends meeting.

Trail Fixup

The DNR will continue with brush mowing the sides of the trail (did some in Verona already).

Last week Kevin and Brad worked on the trail from Dodgeville to Ridgeway to skid the center of the trail to remove the organic layer and reshoulder it to get better drainage. They hope to do area of the trail between Town Hall and Brian Street next.

Windline at Ridgeway Exit

A windline of trees has been planted by DOT near the Ridgeway exit to act as an actual living snow fence (it is outside of the mow pattern).

Verona Lane Expansion on 18-151

The Public Works Director in Verona says Verona is having significant traffic issues with cars backing up on exit ramp onto 18-151. Verona is fast tracking an exit ramp lane expansion here for safety reasons. They plan to put an extra lane all the way from the 69 exit up to the Verona (Epic) ramp. This will probably result in the closure of the trail for quite a while next summer.

Snow fence by Depot

DNR will deal with the snow fences by the Riley Depot.

Mary Kay Baum's Art Offer

Mary Kay Baum dropped off her photographs on metal. Most are of the Pine Relic but some are of the Trail (all are from Iowa County). She is requesting a letter with an in-kind donation for the ones we keep (she suggested \$50/photo). Sunlight, heat and cold alterations, etc. will not affect the quality of the signs so they should survive if they are put in the kiosks. We did a quick look at the pictures tonight and choose seven. Sarah will send Mary Kay the requested in-kind letter. Dave will arrange to get the rest of the pictures back to her.

Knowles Stewardship Grant Application

Kevin will review Jerry's completed Knowles Stewardship grant application and forward it. Jerry rewrote some of it (with suggestions from Adam). He pointed out that the lot is located near road intersections that could cause danger while people are looking for the parking lot. Increased signage would help with this problem.

Clearing the Backroom

Sarah, Jerry, Lydia and Bill have nearly finished clearing out the back room in the depot and sorting through the files. They ended up keeping historic information, important documents, etc. There is still more to do.

ACT

A conservation group has filed a suit halting construction over the Mississippi and Driftless area.

Next Meeting

Meeting Locations

The next meeting will be via zoom and Dave will set it up. He will send the link and password to everyone. The meeting will start at 5:30. Sarah and Bill will still work on meeting places for January and February.

The next meeting will be November 8, 2021, 5:30 pm, on Zoom. Below are the Zoom specifics needed to attend the meeting:

Topic: FMRT November Meeting

Time: Nov 8, 2021 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83023183010?pwd=L091QnRrQUVvL1plcWYyYldyZ1pldz09>

Meeting ID: 830 2318 3010

Passcode: 690033

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary