



FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIA-SHIAWASSEE TRAIL  
P.O. Box 274  
ST. JOHNS, MI 48879

**Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2017**  
**7:00 pm, Clinton County Courthouse**  
**St. Johns, Michigan**

*Minutes*

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Church called meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
  - a. *Present:* Terry McLeod (Ex-Officio), Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Rick Church, Dave Weber, Pam Weisenburger, Kathy Simon, John Salemi, Ardelle Rodgers
  - b. *Absent:* Doug Hyland, Marshall Baker
  - c. *Guests:* Bob Flynn.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting. Weber/Weisenburger M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Bob Flynn reported that 1) the trail has hardened; 2) there is a tree down (which he will cut down); 3) the recent weed killing worked and, 4) noted the bench in Ionia that was burned.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Add 10 b) Ionia Rotary Club Event Form and 10c) Habitat for Humanity Event. **MOTION** to approve the agenda as amended. Salemi/Weber M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported that the balance on hand as of June 19th was \$107,698.42. The Finance Committee will meet in July and the Friends groups will have their quarterly reports on their grants submitted for review. Heartland Trail was approved their grant request for \$10,000 for resealing. FMCIS Trail was approved for their grant request of \$10,000. FMRVRT was approved for their grant request of \$10,000. It was noted that Doug Hyland from FMCIS Trail presented the sign poster done by MSU students and their next class will focus on placement of signs. Kris Bennett received a grant to have Corbin Design Company redo the MDNR sign package to be in compliance with the MDOT requirements. The grant becomes available in October. The Trust Fund Grant preliminary scoring should be out in August. It is crucial that we get this grant or the \$1.5 million from MDOT would be lost if the project does not go forward.. Next meeting is July 27.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported that she had received expenses of \$1,600.00 for mowing, with a balance of \$30,971.64 and a grant balance of \$20,487.21. We received grant money of \$10,000. Culham stated he received an e-mail about a work place giving donation - he will forward the e-mail to the board for investigation. **MOTION** to approve Financial Report. Simon/Weber M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham e-mailed a report to Board members (see attached). Items: 1) Trail surface; 2) Japanese Knotweed - Conservation District has received a grant to spray it; 3) M-21 trestle in Pewamo was hit by a truck in mid-May, but does not seem to be any damage; 4) Alder Creek bridge in Ovid - re-routing of creek under our bridge is complete; 5) split rail fence in Pewamo (nothing done); 6) Ovid Inter-County drain - shoulder has washed away causing collapse of fence and may possibly undermine the asphalt (Culham working with a contractor); 7) Ovid-Elsie Robotics Club has volunteered to do a trail clean up in Ovid; 8) United Church of Ovid has

proposed to place trash containers in Ovid; 9) roots growing through asphalt in St. Johns; 10) culvert at St. Clair road scheduled to be repaired June 22, 2017; 11) trail scheduled to be sprayed week of June 19. Report was also sent to MDNR and MDOT.

**9. Old Business**

- a) *Hazardous Crossings* - No progress - waiting for signage.
- b) *Website* -
  - i) *Update Event and Volunteer forms* - Culham passed out form and rules. Rules were approved by MWMTA. The event form is ours. Salemi will work on document language for section regarding insurance coverage that will balance our protection needs and still promotes and encourages events along the trail.
- c) *Fund Raising* - Church suggested raffle or silent auction. Simon reported on Patronicity grant program, which the Village of Fowler is participating in for amenities for their welcome center.
- d) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project* -Hyland will report next month.
- e) *Chain of Command Flow Chart* - Church is working on this project.

**10. New Business -**

- a) *Recent Vandalism on Trail/Insurance* - Munn bench destroyed by arson. Reported to sheriff's office. Gustafson stated she talked to the manufacturer and they say that bench cannot be burned without an accelerant. Regardless, the bench is no longer there, the concrete is split and the melted remains of the bench fused on top. Officer who took report was Michael Chapman, Complaint No. 2017-003400. We need to get a copy of the complaint for the MWMTA to send to their insurance company for replacement cost. We need to remove concrete. Placement of new bench to be determined. Culham will take photos of all our benches with GPS coordinates for future reference.
- b) *Ionia Rotary Club Bicycle Event*- **MOTION** to approve event application of the Ionia Rotary Club for the Ionia Bicycle Tour on September 16, 2017. Salemi/Church M/S/P Simon to contact villages
- c) *Habitat for Humanity Event* - A small portion of trail will be used by two of the four routes on their August 5 bicycle event. **MOTION** to approve event application of the Habitat for Humanity Bike to Build ride. Salemi/Gustafson M/SP

**11. Next Meeting Date/Location** –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 7 pm at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns.

**12. Adjournment** – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Church/Salemi M/S/P

*Minutes taken by Kathy Simon*