



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

Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
7:00 pm, Main Street Pizza
St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Church called meeting to order at 7:20 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Rick Church, Dave Weber, Pam Weisenburger, Kathy Simon, Doug Hyland, Janice Gustafson, Ardelle Rodgers
 - b. **Absent:** Terry McLeod (Ex-Officio), John Salemi, Marshall Baker
 - c. **Guests:** Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P (no August meeting)
4. **Public Comment** - Mr. Trumble mentioned that there are a lot of dead ash trees along trail. He would like to know if they can cut them down to avoid future problems. Board consensus that as long as they are certified to use chain saws, they are well marked as trail maintenance and inform the trail manager when they are going to cut them down, there should be no problem.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Remove item 9a) (Old business - Hazardous Crossings); add item 8d) New Business - Stoney Creek Gravel Pit. **MOTION** to approve the revised agenda. Gustafson/Hyland M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod was not present to make report, however Culham stated that the Authority will pay for \$500 deductible for the bench vandalism and will apply for property insurance on it to get reimbursed for new bench, concrete, etc. Insurance will also pay for clean up (concrete removal). Gustafson stated she has received the replacement bench.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported that she had received August expenses of \$8,700 (\$7,100 to TruGreen for spraying and \$1,600 to Litchfield for 2 mowings) and income of \$30 for dues and donations with a fund balance of \$17,603.94 and a grant balance of \$3,797.68. **MOTION** to approve Financial Report. Simon/Rodgers M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** -
 - a) E-mail Motion made and passed: "To chloride a test section of the trail and pay the invoice knowing that we will be reimbursed by the DNR" Gustafson/Simon M/S/P (ayes: Gustafson, Simon, Hyland, Salemi, Weisenburger, Church, Weber naves: none; no response: Rodgers, Baker) Culham stated they applied 4 layers of calcium chloride on 1/4 mile test section between Shepardsville and St. Clair roads on September 6. Church said he could tell there was a minor difference. Report from Tom Byle, an engineer from the Kent County Road Commission states that our limestone is dolomite, which does not bind. Limestone on our trail comes from a different quarry than other trails he tested. Although it meets DNR standards for 100% carbonate, it is magnesium carbonate instead of calcium carbonate. The DNR has a \$40,000 fund to experiment on solutions in order to find a way to "fix" the trail. Culham also stated that the Authority is taking the lead on this. He is providing this information for our knowledge and awareness - we do not have

to pursue the issue. However, we do need to be set up as a vendor with the state of Michigan in order to receive reimbursement. In other matters, Culham stated that he has cleaned a bunch of vandalism and bridge graffiti. Heather Hanover is looking at solutions for cleaning the tunnel in St. Johns. Loose bricks at the memorial in St. Johns have been taken care of. Spraying for Japanese Knotweed will take place on Sept 21 and 22 at Shepherdsville Road. He marked sandy, loose area east of Chandler Road but is not sure how to fix it. In Pewamo - large rocks for barrier between the apartment parking lot and the trail have been donated by RichRo (farmers in Fowler). (RichRo will also deliver the rocks) We will also install new fences. An MSU landscape architecture class is working to engineer a horse trail between St. Johns and Owosso.

9. Old Business

- a) *Hazardous Crossings* - (Removed from agenda - however, it may not be an issue once the Japanese Knotweed is removed)
- b) *Event and Volunteer forms* - Nothing to report.
- c) *Fund Raising* - Still brainstorming - nothing to report
- d) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project* - Hyland reported that they met September 12. This term there is a bigger student group. Hyland will meet separately with Culham and nail down what we are looking for. The project is moving forward.
- e) *Chain of Command Flow Chart* - Church reported that State representatives are getting pressure. Ben Frederick is aware of problems with the trail. Discussed using ADA non-compliance angle as leverage.
- f) *Recent Vandalism on Trail/Insurance Claim* - As noted above, Gustafson has received the replacement bench. It is made of the same material as the original, however, she has not opened the box it was delivered in. We received two estimates for \$1,700 for installation and bench. Gustafson will pay discounted amount of the invoice for bench and be reimbursed by the friends group. She has not decided on the location to place the new bench.

10. New Business -

- a) *2018 Budget* - Culham stated we need to present a maintenance budget to the MWMTA by October. Gustafson will draft a proposed budget based on following estimates: Mowing- \$10,000; special mowing- \$3,600; 2 spraying -\$12,000; possible culvert repair - \$10,000; seal coating - \$20,000; miscellaneous - \$5,000.
- b) *MOU Request from Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management* - We are unsure of how much commitment/responsibility they are expecting from the friends group. Consensus that this is an important issue, but not urgent. **MOTION** to revisit the request to join the MMCISM at a later date when we have more information about our responsibility. Simon/Weisenburger M/S/P
- c) *Review of Liability Insurance* - Tabled.
- d) *Stoney Creek Gravel Pit* - Weber stated that motorcycles are coming onto the trail from M-21 via the gravel pit access road between Wagar Road and Muir. They say there is no signage prohibiting them from using the trail. Culham will see if he can get some "no motorized vehicle" signs, "no horses" signs and the regulation size posts from the DNR to place at that location (facing east and west from the access road). Hyland stated that he would like some more signage for the Muir area also.

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

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Simon/Weber M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon