



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, April 9, 2020 6:00 pm, Phone/Web Conference

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Rodgers called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a) **Present:** Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Allen Martin, Ardelle Rodgers, Joel Wickham, Doug Hyland, Dave Weber, Janice Gustafson, Rick Church, Craig Bisson, Kathy Simon, Doug Hyland, Craig Bisson
 - b) **Absent:** None
 - c) **Guests:** None
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting. Martin/Wickham M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Hyland/Church M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – Culham stated that MWMTA did not hold a meeting in March. Grant requests were discussed at the February meeting. Also noted that the River Valley Trail have had to install reflective horse signs (ours are not reflective).
7. **Financial Report** – Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Gustafson. There was \$1,250 of deposits in February (\$410 dues and \$840 donations) and \$1,140 of deposits in March (\$560 dues and \$580 in donations), and another \$10,000 for MWMTA Grant. Total operating expenses were \$355 in February (newsletters PO Box Rental and web site maintenance) and \$1,223.16 in March (Trail/Sign Maintenance, Trail Manager and operating supplies). Ending Fund Balance is \$27,050.96, Grant Fund Balance is \$9,248.93 and Operating Fund Balance of \$17,802.03. **MOTION** to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Simon/Bisson M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported that he needs another grant request for \$10,000 sent in as soon as possible. At their February meeting, MWMTA approved that any officer of the Friends groups can sign for grant requests. He will have to reallocate moneys from the grant because of a couple of culverts and a sink hole. Culvert near Fowler is rusted out and needs repair. Also, in St. Johns near Smith Landscaping, we may need to put in a drain. Currently, water tends to drain across the trail, creating a hazard for trail users when it freezes. He has a bid of \$8,000. Other repairs include a fence near St. Johns that was knocked down and needs to be fixed and the new ADA pads to install in Fowler and Ovid. DNR has approved removal of trees fallen down on the trail, but no other work is to be done on the trail because of the current prohibitions. He has ascertained that volunteers do not need permits - our signage will be sufficient. Just let him know and he will contact the police to give them a heads up. However, mowing and spraying people will need permits. Our spring clean up will need to be cancelled. He asked if members/volunteers could sweep and clean off the ADA bump pads at the street/road crossings when we are able to get back to working on the trail. He has posted DNR signs in each town instructing trail users to maintain social distancing while using the trail.

9. Old Business

- a) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Project (including 1/2 mile marker) - Update - No update.*
- b) *Spring Clean Up Day - Cancelled.*

10. New Business

- a) *Annual Meeting - Recap - Ron Gunderson's talk went over well, but the room was pretty cramped. Culham has not received an invoice from Craig Smith for food (3 pizzas, brownies, cokes). **MOTION** to allocate \$75 for food for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Church/Wickham M/S/P*
- b) *Election of Officers - **MOTION** to keep present officers in place until we can meet in person. Wickham/Church M/S/P*
- c) *Bike Racks - Weber has two bike racks that have not been installed. Decision to install one near Gustafson's bench in Muir, and the other one in Ovid (Martin will talk to the DPW)*
- d) *Potential Meeting Locations - Discussed other possible locations for monthly meetings.(ie, St. Johns hospital, Ovid Township Hall, Fowler Village Hall, St. Johns Depot, Dallas Township Hall). Tabled until May.*
- e) *Possible Membership in West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition - Discussed possible membership. Culham will research membership dues, etc. Tabled until May.*

11. Next Meeting Date/Location – 6:00 pm on May 13, 2020 (location to be determined).

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Martin/Bisson M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon