



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, February 15, 2017
7:00 pm, Clinton County Courthouse, St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 6:58 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Terry McLeod, Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham, Ardelle Rodgers, Kyle Knight, Rick Church, Dave Weber, Kathy Simon, Pam Weisenburger
 - b. **Absent:** Marshall Baker
 - c. **Guests:** Doug Hyland, Tom Ciganick, Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Add 9h -Brochures. **MOTION** to approve the agenda, as amended. Weber/Gustafson M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported that their current balance held in Independent Bank is \$89,155. The amount available for use at the Grand Rapids Foundation is \$320,559.18. A \$10,000 grant request from FM River Valley Trail was approved. Grants for the four friends' groups in 2016 totaled \$78,199.55. Officers elected for 2017 are: Chairperson - Hanover, Vice Chairperson - Hodges, Treasurer - Gunderson, Secretary - McLeod. A subcommittee was formed to review event forms/rules/processes. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2017.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported that no revenue was received and \$130 was expended in January, 2017. There is a current operating funds balance of \$14,842.80. **MOTION** to approve the financial report. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P Our \$37,000 grant and budget was approved by MWMTA. Knight will ask Gunderson, MWMTA Treasurer, to release/disburse funds.
8. **Trail Maintenance** -
 - a) **Trail Surface** - Since each interested entity seems to be heading in different directions, Knight will set up a meeting between MDOT (Smith), MDNR (Van Bloem), MWMTA, Culham and himself to discuss a plan to fix the limestone surface. Knight will facilitate meeting. **Pack Down Day** - Discussed setting up a day in April for board members to drive down the trail in order to pack it down. **Trail Cleanup** - Chuck Nelson wants to bring his students (10-20) after Labor Day to do a clean up. **Chain Saw Certification Class** - There will be a chain saw certification class this spring (possibly at Sleepy Hollow State Park). **Spraying** - Japanese Knotweed needs to be sprayed this year. **Adler Creek** - Clinton County will be re-routing this drain/creek in June.
9. **Old Business**
 - a) **Hazardous Crossings** - Tabled.
 - b) **Website** -

- i) *Update Event and Volunteer forms* - Culham is updating forms. The ending date will be removed from the volunteer forms. He will bring new forms to annual meeting
- c) *2017 Annual Meeting* - Knight plans to be there at 5:45 pm, board members should be there by 6:30 pm. Culham will add the event to our website. Simon will add it to our facebook page and send an article to the local newspapers. AgroLiquid will conduct tours between 6 and 7 pm. Gustafson will bring banner, Simon will bring sign in sheets, Weber and Church will count any ballots received at the meeting. Refreshments will be lemonade, water, coffee and cookies.
- d) *2017 Winter Newsletter* - Newsletters, membership application/renewal forms, ballots and return envelopes assembled prior to this meeting. Mailed after meeting.
- e) *Fund Raising* - Tabled.
- f) *Possibility of Paid Trail Manager* - Discussed several options. Gas receipts and other tangible expenses will be submitted to MWMTA. **MOTION** to make quarterly payments of \$450 to trail manager in arrears, and disbursed on the last day of the quarter, amount to be reviewed annually. Church/Simon M/S/P **MOTION** to appoint Culham as Trail Manager. Church/Gustafson M/S/P
- g) *Wayfaring Signs* - This will be added to agenda with MDNR, MDOT meeting (see item 8a). Discussed adding verbiage regarding fines to signage for non-approved uses (may also consider adding on our website).
- h) *Brochures* - MDOT sent a request for 1,250 brochures for their Welcome Centers. **MOTION** to print 3,000 copies, 1,250 to be sent to MDOT, remainder to be distributed where we feel necessary. Weisenburger/Weber M/S/P

10. New Business -

- a) *AgroLiquid Sidewalk Connection* - Tabled.
- b) *Curwood Pavilion* - Rick Morris is spearheading this project. Because it's a structure an architectural drawing will be required. In order to move forward with this project, Morris requested we reserve a spot for this pavilion between Baldwin and Sherman on the south side of the trail. He will fund raise for entire amount for architectural drawing and construction of the pavilion. **MOTION** to reserve spot for one year for Curwood Pavilion between Baldwin and Sherman on the south side Rodgers/Gustafson M/S/P
- c) *Buckingham Resignation/Board Vacancy* - Buckingham has tendered his resignation from the board. **MOTION** to accept resignation of Guy Buckingham Simon/Weber M/S/P **MOTION** to appoint Doug Hyland to vacancy created by Buckingham which expires in March 2018. Gustafson/Church M/S/P **MOTION** to appoint Rick Church as Vice Chair. Weber/Gustafson M/S/P
- d) *MSU Student Project* - Professor Mike Everett from MSU has contacted us to set up a student project for his class (Engagement for Community Sustainability). Hyland set up a meeting between Kriss Bennett (MDNR), Mike Smith (MDOT), Everett and himself. Result is a pilot project to develop signage for our trail that meets approval of all parties. MDNR, MDOT, MSU and Hyland will present the project to the class on February 28. They will report by May 2, 2017. Students will be required to interact with public on this ongoing project.

11. Next Meeting Date/Location –Next meeting is the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 7 pm at the AgroLiquid headquarters in St. Johns.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Weber/Simon M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon