



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, January 9, 2019  
6:00 pm, Clinton County Court House  
St. Johns, Michigan

### *Minutes*

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Church called meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
  - a. **Present:** Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Rick Church, John Salemi, Allen Martin, Dave Weber, Ardelle Rodgers, Kathy Simon
  - b. **Absent:** Pam Weisenburger, John Salemi, Doug Hyland
  - c. **Guests:** None
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting. Weber/Gustafson M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Church recommended amending the agenda as follows: Table Item 9a (Wayfaring Signs), move Items 9b and 9e to Item 8 (Trail Maintenance). **MOTION** to approve the agenda as amended. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – No report. Culham stated they have not met the last two months.
7. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Gustafson reported that we received no revenue in November or December. There were, however, payments for mileage (Culham) and cold patching totaling \$1,308.63. Michigan Trail Authority Grant Fund balance is \$7,141.73. Ending Operating Balance as of December 31, 2018 was \$21,518.02. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report as presented. Rodgers/Martin M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Discussion items: 1) *Closure of Bridges During Winter:* Culham stated he discussed the winter closure of bridges over the Maple River and Stoney Creek with Nikki Van Bloem, DNR Southern Michigan Trails Specialist. Nikki asked him to send her our plan. He's still investigating different barriers and will e-mail pictures to board members. 2) *Trail condition:* not much change, but planning on smoothing out the ruts in the surface after the frost comes out. We may need to plan a day for filling gopher holes. Test areas where someone drove on it are almost completely impassable and treacherous to ride on. He talked to Nikki about removing the east three sections. She has no problem and noted we have about \$7,100 remaining. He noted that they have been very busy with tree removal. 3) *Request from Ovid:* Culham stated that the mayor of Ovid has requested that we buy trash cans. Consensus that we do not pay for trash cans, since other communities have purchased and taken care of their own trash cans. In addition, our policy has always been "pack in pack out". 4) *Markers:* Discussed adding 1/2 mile markers in rural areas and other signage. 5) *2019 Trail Clean Up Day:* Clean up day will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019.
9. **Old Business**
  - a) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project - Update* - Tabled.

- b) *Closure of Bridge During Winter - Update* - See Item 8 above.
- c) *Centralized Trail Clearinghouse - Update* - It appears other trails have encountered limestone surface problems similar to ours and are, in essence, repeating all the steps we have already taken. Consensus to add information regarding our experiences to our website with searchable key words (ie - "Limestone Trail Surface Reference Guide")
- d) *Annual Meeting Discussion and Action* -Consensus to hold a basic annual meeting on March 26, 2019 with board elections and public participation welcomed. No speaker . Discussed holding a CIS Trail Appreciation Day this summer/fall (picnic fare, bike ride, evening walk, scavenger hunt, etc.)
- e) *Trail Condition Discussion* - See Item 8 above.
- f) *Bikepacking Discussion* - Tabled.
- g) *Discussion re How to Increase Trail Use* - Tabled.

#### **10. New Business**

- a) *2019 Board Elections* -Weber, Church and Salemi are up for re-election. Weber and Church announced they will run again (Salemi absent). Simon will write article soliciting members to run for office. She will post on Facebook, Culham will send an e-mail blast and post on our website. Decided against sending article to papers.
- b) *2019 Winter Newsletter* - Simon and Culham presented suggested timeline and article ideas to the Board. Newsletter, ballot and membership form will be assembled and mailed at the February meeting. **MOTION** to approve up to \$350 for newsletter and mailings. Martin/Gustafson M/S/P
- c) *Possible Participation in the 2019 Centennial Celebration for State Parks* - Discussed whether we would like to participate in this promotion. Our involvement may be as little as posting flyers and information on our Facebook page.
- d) *Possible Participation in Michigan Trail Heritage* - Simon will do more research and send e-mail to Board members.
- e) *Annual Donation Reminder to Members* - Culham suggesting sending a year-end reminder to members and organizations considering the Friends Group when making decisions about their annual donations, possibly by a December e-mail blast. Might also note that we are a 501c3 organization and donations may be tax deductible. Simon has added this to our Calendar.

**11. Next Meeting Date/Location** – February 13, 2019, 6 pm, Clinton County Courthouse, Conference Room C. **NOTE** we will be assembling the Winter Newsletter, ballot and membership dues form.

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

*Minutes taken by Kathy Simon*