



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 12, 2018
6:00 pm, Clinton County Court House
St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Church called meeting to order at 6.02 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Present:* Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Rick Church, John Salemi, Ardelle Rodgers, Pam Weisenburger, Allen Martin, Kathy Simon, Doug Hyland
 - b. *Absent:* Dave Weber
 - c. *Guests:* Terry McLeod.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2018 meeting. Gustafson/Hyland M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Gustafson/Martin M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – Culham submitted our 2019 Maintenance Budget to MWMTA. He also applied for an additional \$10,000 from the grant fund. MWMTA is working on a MOU between the DNR and MWMTA to give the Authority the ability to maintain the trail, to subsequently be passed along to the Friends groups to maintain.
7. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Gustafson presented the June/July/August report. We received \$10,000 from MWMTA in June for maintenance. As of August 31, 2018, our Ending Funds Balance is \$22,496.65; our MWMTA Grant Fund Balance is \$7,300.36; and our Operating Fund Balance is \$15,196.29. Gustafson also prepared a 2019 Budget for discussion. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report as presented. Rodgers/Salemi M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported that the DNR has approved crushed recycled asphalt surface for the River Valley Trail. We are currently testing this product in the surface test area. Culham stated that this product can be seal coated. He also stated that we may be seal coating some of the paved portions of our trail this year. Litchfield may be cutting back overgrowth (\$4,500). He would charge an additional \$1,800 to push dead trees over. Discussed setting up volunteers to cut down trees, perhaps over the winter. Knotweed was sprayed on the east side of the trail, but flourishing in Muir. Hyland may work with the county extension office to spray in Muir.
9. **Old Business**
 - a) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project* - Hyland has been contacted by the new student group and will be meeting with them soon. Signage requirements have still not been approved. In addition, signage funding has been approved but the funds have not been released. Discussed contacting our state representatives to put pressure on MDOT.
 - b) *Board Meeting Schedule* - Discussed developing a calendar for annual events, reporting requirements, etc. in order to set board meeting calendar. Board members

should send items to be added to the calendar to Simon and she will prepare for the October meeting.

- c) *Wooden Platform for Benches* - Determined that these are ADA compliant. Weisenburg mentioned that dirt usually washes away from the edges, making it difficult for special needs individuals with wheel chairs. Discussed different options (can we pour our own cement? can we have cement poured and we install benches? can we use plastic/resin pads instead?) Hyland will check into other options.
- d) *Closure of Bridges in Winter* - The bridges over the Maple River and Stoney Creek are being damaged by illegal vehicular traffic. In order to discourage further destruction of the bridges, the Board discussed adding permanent bollards blocking motorized vehicles from using this portion of the trail. Culham stated that we have budgeted for this. He will research cost for materials.

10. New Business

- a) *Installation of Gustafson Bench* - This bench has already been purchased and is currently in Gustafson's garage. She will mark the spot where she wants it installed (between Muir and Ionia). Plans are to install it this fall.
- b) *2019 Maintenance Budget* - Discussed 2019 Maintenance Budget. **MOTION** to approve 2019 Maintenance Budget. Hyland/Salemi M/S/P
- c) *Facebook Disclaimer* - Due to recent inappropriate comments on our facebook page, Simon proposed adding a disclaimer to the site giving the administrator the right to remove inappropriate or offensive comments. Consensus to approve adding this disclaimer.

11. Next Meeting Date/Location – October 10, 2018, Conference Room C, First Floor, Clinton County Courthouse . Also set a tentative date of March 26, 2019 for our annual meeting.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at Martin/Gustafson 7:38 pm M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon