



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 9, 2020 6:00 pm, Main Street Pizza, St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Rodgers called meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a) **Present:** Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Allen Martin, Joel Wickham, Dave Weber, Rick Church, Craig Bisson, Janice Gustafson, Kathy Simon
 - b) **Absent:** Ardelle Rodgers, Doug Hyland
 - c) **Guests:** None
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **NOTE:** June meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. No meetings were held in July and August per e-mail motion (see item 9d) **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting. Martin/Weber M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Item 9a removed (Wayfaring Sign/MSU Project). **MOTION** to approve the agenda as amended. Gustafson/Martin M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – Culham stated that MWMTA met in August, but not in July. Discussed tunnel lights (see item 10c). Proposed budget procedure change: each trail receives a third of the total available funds. Any surplus at year end may be carried over for three years. After the third year it will return to the general fund. Total maintenance funds available from the Grand Rapids Community Fund (GRCF) for 2021 is \$155,065, less \$10,855 for the Authority. Our portion is \$48,070. The GRCF 's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. The MWMTA has sent a letter to Ionia and Shiawassee counties to determine whether they have any objections to inviting Kent, Gratiot, Montcalm and Clinton counties to join the MWMTA. Currently these counties do not have representation on the board even though trails run through their borders. (Clinton County originally declined to join - the City of St. Johns is currently represented on the board). Also discussed consideration of reimbursement to volunteers for replacement of equipment broken while performing trail maintenance.
7. **Financial Report** –Treasurer's Report through August 31, 2020 - Since June we have received \$3,600 for purchase of four benches, \$20,000 in grants from the MWMTA, and \$110 in dues and donations for total deposits of \$23,710. Disbursements: June - \$13,826; July - \$1,509; August - \$12,913. Ending Fund Balance is \$23,586, Grant Fund Balance is \$4,289 and Operating Fund Balance of \$19,298. **MOTION** to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Wickham/Weber M/S/P Gustafson also presented proposed 2021 Budget (including actual expenditures for 2018, 2019 and 2020 YTD).
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported the following: 1) Jill Sell has stated that the MDOT money earmarked for fixing our trail surface is still available. Martin stated that he rode his bike on the new section of RAP on the River Valley and liked our trail surface better. 2) We have purchased five benches. Two have been installed - one in Ovid at Adler Creek Bridge and one near the Stoney Creek Bridge. Of the remaining three, one will be installed near St. Johns and one at the

Maple River Bridge. Location for the third bench, purchased by the Friends Group, has not yet been determined. He has had difficulties at times buying the wood for the bases. 3) Some signs have been stolen at Hollister Road and need to be replaced. The "No Horse" signs have faded and need to be replaced. 4) St. Johns has now been crack sealed and sealcoated (\$9,000 of the cost was donated by Williams Asphalt). 5) Martin has suggested installing a portajohn in Ovid since they do not have a trail head. A suitable spot with a cement pad has been located on city property near his house. Rental is \$150/month for handicap accessible portajohn, cleaned weekly, which could be covered by our maintenance funds. **MOTION** to place a portajohn in Ovid for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Gustafson/Bisson M/S/P 6) Dan McMaster, Shiawassee representative on the MWMTA board, is pushing again to connect our trail into Owosso. Discussed adding parking at Smith Road. 7) Spraying this year was successful. 8) Still painting over the graffiti under US 127.

9. Old Business

- a) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Project (including 1/2 mile marker) - Update* - Item removed.
- b) *Potential Meeting Locations* - Consensus to meet at Main Street Pizza in St. Johns for remainder of year. Please arrive at 5:30 if possible if you wish to order food prior to the meeting.
- c) *Insurance Requirements* - Discussion of whether we need property insurance. MWMTA Authority covers our property insurance (as evidenced by the damaged Gustafson bench) so it may be a duplication of insurance. However, some members on the MWMTA board insist that we need it. We may wish to consider changing our insurance carrier to the same company as the other two trails and MWMTA use.
- d) *E-Mail Motion* - Note for records of the following e-mail motion of June 16, 2020: **MOTION** That we not hold meetings in July and August, 2020. Martin/Gustafson M/S/P

10. New Business

- a) *Election of Officers* - Tabled till October.
- b) *Bench Update* - This subject covered under item 8. Discussed adding location of benches to next brochure (along with GPS coordinates). Church suggested we place benches on the outskirts of each town.
- c) *Business Loop US 127 Tunnel Lights* - MWMTA is waiting for our answer on whether we would be willing to pay maintenance costs and possibly raise funds and/or make a donation to the projected cost of \$12,500. Tabled until further information is available.
- d) *MWMTA Grant Request* - Culham requested \$10,000 at August MWMTA meeting.
- e) *CIS Trail Budget* - Gustafson presented proposed 2020 Budget (see item 7). Culham stated he has a new project he wants to request funds for - installation of an 8-10' culvert in St. Johns near Smith Landscaping to avoid water draining over the trail surface which ices up in the winter. Estimated cost is \$8,500. Culham will be working with the DNR for permits to install a drain and will check with MWMTA on which way to cover the cost. Tabled till next month.

11. Next Meeting Date/Location – 6:00 pm on October 14, 2020. Please arrive by 5:30 pm if you want to order snacks or dinner prior to the meeting.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:41 pm. Martin/Bisson M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon