



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, February 7, 2018
6:00 pm, Clinton County Court House
St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Church called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Present:* John Salemi, Janice Gustafson, Dave Weber, Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Rick Church, Kathy Simon, Ardelle Rodgers, Pam Weisenburger
 - b. *Absent:* Doug Hyland
 - c. *Guests:* Jason Denovich
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Jason Denovich, representing Clinton County Arts Council, jointly with the St. Johns DDA, made a presentation to hold an event on the trail in St. Johns. They are proposing to host a high end dinner ON the trail in St. Johns starting just east of Clinton Avenue. The dinner will showcase local produce growers and farmers (farm to fork type dinner). The event will be held on a Saturday evening (5:30-9:00 pm) in September. A temporary detour of the trail to Railroad Street would be set up for the duration of the event. The presentation was made for information purposes only as no date has been selected yet. Consensus of the board that this event would likely be approved as presented.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Salemi/Gustafson M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod resigned from the board of the MWMTA effective February 1, 2018. Culham stated that we need a trail summary for MWMTA to give to the Meijer Foundation (Church will prepare summary). Tom Byle, Steve Krzesicki and Scott Post attended the February meeting. Soil sample test of the lime residue from the Owosso treatment plant did not work to firm up the trail. They are working on a solution and will present findings at the next meeting. The MWMTA read our letter, but took no action on it. MWMTA approved \$7,500 for mowing our trail. They would like to keep maintenance down to \$1,000 per mile, so our budget of \$42,000 was approved. Culverts repair cost is not coming out of our budget. Ovid culvert should be fixed this year. In news of the other trails, The River Valley Trail may start construction this spring.
7. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Gustafson reported that there was no activity in January. **MOTION** to approve payment of \$164.05 to Go Daddy (website renewal and domain name) and \$29.65 for a new chain for Culham's chain saw Weber/Church M/S/P There is a balance of \$357.78 in the Michigan Trail Authority Grant Fund. The ending Operating Fund Balance as of January 31, 2018 was \$14,635.26. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported that he will request \$10,000 at the February MWMTA meeting. Geocachers - there are currently 174 geocaches along the trail between Owosso and Ionia (Owosso to Ovid - 59; Ovid to St. Johns - 1; St. Johns to Fowler - 49; Fowler to Pewamo - 23; Pewamo to Muir - 20; Muir to Dexter Street in Ionia - 22). They would like to use our FMCIS logo, but since it is not trademarked we have no control. Ditch repair is needed between Sherman

and Priest roads, where the ditch needs to be cleaned out from trees and excavated to the culvert. The nearby farmer says his field is full of water. We have no legal obligations to clean storm drains. The farmer needs to take this issue up with the DNR. Kiwanis Ride for Diabetes from St. Johns to Owosso is scheduled for May 5, 2018.

9. Old Business

- a) *Fund Raising* - Board consensus that we need to decide on a project and a goal before we start fund raising.
- b) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project* - Tabled.
- c) *Chain of Command Flow Chart* - Church distributed a draft flow chart for discussion purposes.
- d) *Review of Liability Insurance* - Salemi reported that Lappan requires a list of our board of directors . We will wait until after the annual meeting to proceed, since the board may be different in a few months .
- f) *Set up of Volunteer Dates* - Tabled.
- g) *2018 Annual Meeting (date, location, speaker, agenda)* - Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 pm. Salemi will check if we can use a room at the Clinton County Courthouse. Keynote speaker will be Ben Frederick, State Representative, and possibly Bob Wilson, new Executive Director of the MTGA. Culham will present an update of trail maintenance issues. We will plan to once more recognize our volunteers.
- h) *2018 Winter Newsletter* - Simon gave a summary of the planned articles. She will send a draft to board members prior to publication. We will plan to compile the newsletter, ballots and membership renewal forms at our March board meeting.
- i) *Board Vacancy and 2018 Election* -Rodgers, Simon and Hyland are all running again for their respective positions. We also have a vacancy in Clinton County (Baker resignation). Simon will send article to local newspapers to solicit interest in board positions.

10. New Business

No new business was identified for the February meeting.

11. Next Meeting Date/Location – Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6 pm at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:36 pm. Gustafson/Simon M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon