



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, October 14, 2020 6:00 pm, Main Street Pizza, St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Weber called meeting to order at 6:06 pm. (Chairperson Rodgers arrived at 6:30 pm.)
2. **Roll Call**
 - a) **Present:** Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Allen Martin, Joel Wickham, Dave Weber, Craig Bisson, Kathy Simon, Doug Hyland, Ardelle Rodgers
 - b) **Absent:** Rick Church, Janice Gustafson
 - c) **Guests:** Dan McMaster (MWMTA Board Member), Heather Hanover (MWMTA Board Member)
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting. Culham/Wickham M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Dan McMaster, Shiawassee County Commissioner and Vice Chairperson of the MWMTA board, stated that he, Culham, and Rick Morris (owner of The House of Wheels in Owosso) are meeting with Representative Ben Fredericks and a City of Owosso staffer on Thursday, October 15 to discuss bringing the trail from Smith Road into Owosso. (Culham later reported that after some discussion on October 15 the group decided to wait until after the elections to move forward with further meetings.) The Shiawassee County Board has approved invitation to Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot and Clinton counties to the MWMTA board. He also stated that the next MWMTA meeting is October 22.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Wickham/Martin M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – Culham stated the MWMTA will be extending invitations to Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot and Clinton counties to the Authority board (approved by Shiawassee and Ionia counties). The MWMTA has \$61,226.49 in the Ionia fiduciary (which should get us through the year) and \$458,806 in the Grand Rapids Community Fund. At their last meeting he asked for a \$10,000 grant, Heartland Trail asked for \$5,000. Also discussed at the last meeting were: installation of tunnel lights under Business US 127 in St. Johns, trail reports for our trail, the River Valley Trail and the Heartland Trail, a new budget process and reimbursement of volunteer equipment and supplies.
7. **Financial Report** –Treasurer's Report through September 30, 2020 - Treasurer Gustafson was not present but e-mailed her report. \$10,000 in grants received from the MWMTA, and \$25 in dues for total deposits of \$10,025. Disbursements: \$11,438 (trail brushing, quarterly payment to trail manager, license fees, purchase of bench). Ending Fund Balance is \$22,173.50, Grant Fund Balance is \$4,868.06 and Operating Fund Balance of \$17,305.43. **MOTION** to accept Treasurer's Report as presented. Wickham/Weber M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported the following: 1) As mentioned by McMaster, he will be meeting tomorrow with McMaster and Rick Morris with Representative Ben Fredericks and a City of Owosso staffer regarding the extension of our trail from Smith Road into Owosso. 2) Litchfield brushed the trail with an arm mower. 3) Trail was sprayed last week. 4) Replaced road signs at

Hollister Road intersection and Stop Ahead sign along with the street name at Morton Street in St. Johns. 5) All new benches have been installed except the one purchased by the Friends Group. Consensus of the board to place the Friends' Group bench between the Munn bench west of Muir and the west end of the trail. 6) Boy Scouts will be doing a clean up between Muir and Ionia in a couple weeks. In addition, an individual needing community service recently cleaned brush and trash between Pewamo and Muir. 7) Muir will again be conducting a Trunk and Treat along the trail - shortened to 1 hour. 8) He and Martin cleaned up a mess along the trail in Fowler - love seat, recliner table, folding chairs, etc. - that became visible after brushing. 9) Porta-john was installed in Ovid. He also remarked that he received a call from Ron Gunderson from the River Valley Trail. Gunderson said they swept the loose material from the new trail between Saranac to Ionia with great results.

9. Old Business

- a) *Potential Meeting Locations* - Consensus of board to meet at Main Street Pizza in St. Johns until the end of 2020.
- b) *Election of Officers* - **MOTION** to keep current slate of officers until after the 2021 Annual Meeting and elections. Simon/Wickham
- c) *US 127 Tunnel Lights* - Heather Hanover, MWMTA Treasurer and representative from the City of St. Johns, stated that she is working with the St. Johns Arts Council to add electricity and lights to the tunnel under Business US 127. Cost for this project is estimated by Consumers Energy at \$12,500. MWMTA and the St. Johns Community Foundation have pledged funds. The City of St. Johns is not able to pledge funds. The City and the Arts Council are only looking to the Friends Group for support of this project and promotion of fund raising efforts. **MOTION** to support efforts to add lighting to the Business US 127 tunnel. Hyland/Bisson M/S/P
- d) *CIS Trail Budget (Including Maintenance Budget)* - **MOTION** to approve budget as presented by Treasurer. Hyland/Martin M/S/P This budget reflects revenue and expenditures continuing at current levels. Culham also presented a "bare bones" maintenance only budget for \$46,025 (vs. \$64,400 in the approved budget) in the event of a reduction to MWMTA grants for 2021.

10. New Business

- a) *Warning Signs/Signals at Busy Intersections* - Simon stated that the Fowler village clerk advised her that there have been "close calls" with bicycles not yielding to traffic at the Edgewood Drive crossing. This happens to be the entrance to Simon Brothers Trucking where semis routinely enter and exit. One or two other road crossings along the trail may also be high risk areas. Discussed use of speed bumps, bollards, signals, extra signage, etc. As any action on our part will set a precedent, this item will also be added to the MWMTA October agenda. Will wait to hear MWMTA for direction.
- b) *Mead Street Drainage in St. Johns* - Culham has arranged to have a drain system installed underneath the trail into Smith Landscaping. City of St. Johns is partnering with us on the project. Cost is estimated at \$2,300.

11. Next Meeting Date/Location – 6:00 pm on November 11, 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 7:22 pm. Wickham/Hyland M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon