



FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIA-SHIAWASSEE TRAIL  
P.O. BOX 274  
ST. JOHNS, MI 48879

## Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail Monthly Meeting Wednesday, October 12, 2016 7:00 pm, Owosso Township Hall, Owosso, Michigan

### *Minutes*

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
  - a. *Present:* Terry McLeod, Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham, Ardelle Rodgers, Kathy Simon, Kyle Knight, Rick Church, Pam Weisenburger, Dave Weber, Guy Buckingham
  - b. *Absent:* Marshall Baker
  - c. *Guests:* Robert Flynn, Bob Bartlett, Erwin Trumble, Jr., Doug Hyland
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016, as amended. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Bob Flynn asked if the minutes could be posted to the website? (Answer: Yes, they will be in the future). He also mentioned that he rode from Owosso to Ovid. Litchfield had brush hogged both sides of the trail through that section and had done an excellent job. There is now a "good uniform look to the trail". Lastly, he mentioned that we should think about putting a "no parking" sign at the tire store/ambulance service on the east end of the trail. Although people are allowed to park there, some are parking in front of the ambulance service, blocking the ambulance drivers. Culham said he would check into it.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Gustafson/Buckingham M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported the following: 1) the Fred Meijer Trail Champion Award for Maintenance was presented to the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail at the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Annual Banquet; 2) they approved payment of the following bills: seal coating for FM Heartland Trail - \$23,255; grant request for the balance of the year for FMCIS Trail - \$10,000; 3) the Friends groups have each submitted budgets for 2017; 4) There is currently \$420,500 available for draw - the MWMTA will request \$100,000 from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to be sent to the Ionia County Treasure to be placed into the MWMTA checking account; 5) There is still confusion on the wayfinding signage. MDOT and MDNR are not in agreement with what constitutes a legal sign. (The City of St. Johns will proceed on their signage.) 6) Gunderson stated that he, Tom Byle, the Kent County Road Commissioner, and Mike Julien from the Meijer Foundation, had met and are working on plans to get work and funding done to get the closed sections of the trail open. Next meeting is October 27, 2016.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported September income of \$0 and disbursements of \$3,775 (mowing). The ending fund balance in September was \$15,172.51. Gustafson also passed out reconciliation of MWMTA Grant. Balance of grant as of September 30, 2016 was \$3,889.01 (additional grant requested for \$10,000 to cover expenses for remainder of the year). **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P **MOTION** to approve payments for bench for \$621.32 Buckingham/Weber M/S/P **MOTION** to approve payment for sink hole, \$2,165.00 Buckingham/Church M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham gave the following reports: *Trail Surface:* Culham met with Nikki VanBloem and an engineer (Steve) from the MDNR on the limestone trail surface. In many areas

it's very sandy and not setting up like limestone would have by now. In addition there are many vertical cracks in the asphalt portion in Fowler that are atypical. The DNR will be meeting with Prein&Newhof next week, however, we may be responsible for payment of repairs or resurfacing. Culham brought up the idea of experimenting with finely screened crushed asphalt and/or pea stone (tarvey). However, the cracks should be sealed sooner than later. Village of Fowler maintenance supervisor (Vern Feldpausch) has inspected the cracks and they are too narrow for conventional road crack sealing methods. Consensus that we will experiment with driveway sealer. **MOTION** to spend up to \$75 for materials to test a trial area with trail sealant Buckingham/Church M/S/P Also, in St. Johns paved portion, black willow is coming right through asphalt. Litchfield will mow down, but we need to find a more permanent solution. Culham will check with Heartland Trail to see what they do. *Culverts:* VanBloem says we have to locate all the culverts along the trail and cut down trees that may eventually cause problems. It is our responsibility to keep them cleaned. McLeod has access to maps that should show culverts. *Bench Pads:* VanBloem also noted some benches where the cement pads need to come right up to the asphalt on the trail. Possibly able to fix ourselves *Brush Cutting:* Litchfield is currently doing this. Ionia to Saranac contract has been approved, so he may go all the down on one side to Saranac and then back the other. *Dead Trees:* Culham plans to go out this week to mark trees near the trail that need to come down. He noted that perhaps we can get some volunteers over the winter to take down the trees. *2017 Maintenance Grant* - approved by MWMTA. *Spraying:* Litchfield suggests instead of us spraying herbicide in the spring or summer, we should do the herbicide in the fall *Miscellaneous:* 1) MSU Survey should be available in the next few weeks. 2) Culham stated he is trying to get names/contacts of DPW 's in all the towns. 3) VanBloem is working with the farmer west of Muir where the wash out has occurred from the farm crossing. 4) DNR is handling the trespassing 4-wheelers west of Muir.

#### **9. Old Business**

- a) *Benches - Update* - Pad is in for McLeod's bench.
- b) *Conservation Officer - Update* - No report.
- c) *Trail Event Fees* - Culham stated we should try to have decision and procedures on trail event fees by the end of the year. Discussed amount of fees (different for profit and non-profit, based on length of trail used, etc), refundable damage deposit, etc. Tabled till December.
- d) *Hazardous Crossings* - McLeod talked to VanBloem, who will talk to MDOT. Tabled till November.
- e) *Website* - Buckingham has turned responsibility for website over to Culham. Discussed adding event calendar and possibly a word press section where users can blog about current conditions.

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

- a) *2017 Annual Meeting* -Tentative March 8, 2017. Rotation of venue for 2017 is Clinton County. Knight will check availability and costs with AgriLiquid. Discussed ideas for speakers, member survey, etc.
- b) *2017 Newsletter* - Consensus that we should continue annual newsletter. Discussed possible articles.
- c) *Fund Raising* - Culham suggested fund raising as an outreach program - ie, trail walks, 3 day trail ride, etc. However, we need to raise funds for a specific purpose/use (paving trail?). Dr. Chuck Nelson has stated that he is willing to work with us on fund raising.
- d) *Newspaper Articles about maintenance events (mowing, brush hogging, spraying, etc.)* - Culham would like to publish articles in paper regarding trail maintenance issues, etc.
- e) *Trail Ambassador/Adopt a Trail/Volunteer programs* -This may be a method to recruit more volunteers.

**11. Next Meeting Date/Location** –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the Clinton County Courthouse.

**12. Adjournment** – **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Gustafson/Buckingham M/S/P

*Minutes taken by Kathy Simon*