



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, August 10, 2016 7:00 pm, Clinton County Courthouse, St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Present:* Dave Weber, Terry McLeod, Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham, Ardelle Rodgers, Kathy Simon, Kyle Knight, Rick Church
 - b. *Absent:* Marshall Baker, Pam Weisenburger, Guy Buckingham
 - c. *Guests:* Craig Smith, Doug Hyland, Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2016, as amended. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P.
4. **Public Comment** - Craig Smith commented that he was concerned about holes, loose gravel and other problems on limestone sections of the trail. Barry Culham, trail coordinator, stated that some of the issues stem from lack of rain. Discussion on different methods of trail maintenance. Also discussed setting up test areas to see what works best.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Requests to add the following items to the agenda: New Bench (under Item 9a - Benches Update), Survey of CIS Trail (Item 10a), Owosso Arts Council event (under Item 9e). **MOTION** to approve the agenda, as amended Weber/Gustafson
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod stated that John Switzer, Director of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District, talked about a grant they received for spraying invasive species. They would like volunteers to participate in a survey to locate invasive species along the trail, including training. All future invoices from Keith Litchfield for mowing the FMCIS Trail will be mailed to the treasurer of the Friends of the FMCIS Trail. A Dell computer, along with QuickBooks program, was purchased for MWMTA use. DNR is strongly encouraging the Friends Groups to set up an events fee schedule to help cover costs that may result from events. Fees could be waived in lieu of a "work day" by the event coordinator, or could be scaled to the size of the event. Culham is working on a draft fee schedule with Gunderson. The City of Ovid is interested in joining the MWMTA. Hanover reported that the City of St. Johns would consider restructuring their representation to possibly allow a representative from St. Johns, but Shiawassee County is not interested in amending the Interlocal Agreement at this time. A meeting was scheduled for August 8 with Tom Byle from the Kent County Road Commission, MDOT, MDNR and other relevant parties to discuss the completion of the 125 mile corridor. They have a grant from MDOT that will only be available for a limited time and they did not score high enough on the last grant application for \$600,000.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported July income of \$3,204.88 and disbursements of \$2,182.31. The ending fund balance in July was \$14,551.52. She also passed out reconciliation of MWMTA Grant. Balance of grant as of July 30, 2016 was \$4,214.01. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham stated he will send a report out in the future. *Phone Number:* We now have an operational phone number - 989/224-8944, ext 285 - to report trail problems. Culham daily monitors that number, in addition to the e-mail. This number can be used to report

trees down, blockages, holes, horses, unapproved usage. Callers should note mile markers or nearest road crossings. Church suggested metal signs with contact information to attach to each sign post. This number will be given to municipalities. Simon will put on Facebook. *Hole Repair*: the hole was fixed at St. Clair Road and we should be getting a bill. Repair should be paid from the MWMTA grant money. *Brushing Trail Back*: Litchfield told Culham that if we combine our trail and the FMRVT it would save thousands of dollars. He is working with Litchfield to identify spots that need to be brushed back. May be later in the fall before he can do it. Note: Litchfield also has a roller. *Stumps*: Litchfield originally wanted to remove stumps, then thought he could get by without removing them, but after much damage to his equipment he now says they should be removed. We already passed a motion in June which should cover expenses. *Middle Growth*: Culham will contact Brian Lawless, newly retired from the Clinton County Drain Commission, who may be able to help us with spraying. Culham will get a price and e-mail board for electronic approval. *Volunteer form*: MWMTA passed a new volunteer form. Culham has asked Buckingham to put it on our website. *Business Cards*: Culham is going to have business cards made up to pass out when he's out on the trail. *E-mail*: Please contact Culham at cistrail@gmail.com in the future. Also discussed grass roots efforts to pave between towns on the western end of trail.

- a) *Invasive Species Survey* - As stated above, Clinton Conservation District wants us to work with them to identify invasive species along the trail. It consists of an hour and a half class time and then field work identifying invasive species. Culham will set up training in the next 4-6 weeks.

9. Old Business

- a) *Benches - Update* - **MOTION** to approve McLeod's request for a bench as presented on the application form. Gustafson/Weber M/SP McLeod will pick a spot and stake it somewhere in Shiawassee County
- b) *Bike Racks - Update* - Courtside Cafe decided they didn't want the bike racks. However, Village of Muir President Hyland stated that they would take a couple. Remaining three benches will be disbursed as follows: one each near benches in Shiawassee County and Pewamo, and one to FMRVT Trail.
- c) *Conservation Officer - Update* - No additional information available at this time.
- d) *Phone Message/monitoring - Update* - See Item 8 - Trail Maintenance above
- e) *Owosso Arts Council Event* - McLeod stated there were 40 riders - very successful. They were happy with conditions on the trail. However, they painted signs on the trail, which need to be removed. Consensus that event users need to be made aware of the rules.

10. New Business -

- a) *Survey from Chuck Nelson* - Chuck Nelson has requested approval to do a service project with his park management class at MSU on the weekend of 9/10-11/16 - a survey of CIS Trail Users. **MOTION** to support trail survey by Chuck Nelson Church/Gustafson M/S/P

11. Next Meeting Date/Location –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the Pewamo Village Hall.

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

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon