



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, September 14, 2016 7:00 pm, Pewamo Village Hall, Pewamo, 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, Marshall Baker, Pam Weisenburger,
 - b. *Absent:* Dave Weber, Guy Buckingham
 - c. *Guests:* Doug Hyland, Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2016, as amended. Gustafson/Church M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Requests to add the following items to agenda: 9d) Old Business - Signs; 10c) New Business - Hazardous Crossings; 10d) New Business - Website. **MOTION** to approve the agenda as amended. Baker/Gustafson M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported that there is a balance in the Ionia account of \$56,568.51, which does not reflect two \$5,000 payments made to FFMCI and FFRVRT. A report on the Endowment Fund shows a balance of \$2,977,684.59 (reduction reportedly caused by market swing caused by the Brexit in the UK). The Grand Rapids Foundation charged \$8,184.60 for management fees. Total available balance for MWMTA is \$314,165.71. The MWMTA approved Professor Chuck Nelson to conduct a Trail Use Assessment survey on the FMCIS Trail in September. (Nineteen students participated - 97 surveys were completed. A report will be presented at a future meeting.) Next meeting to be held on September 29, 2016.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported August income of \$1,700 (bench), two grant payments of \$5,000 each and \$10 (dues) and disbursements of \$2,325 (mowing) and \$1,100 (bench). The ending fund balance in August was \$15,172.51. Gustafson also passed out reconciliation of MWMTA Grant. Balance of grant as of August 31, 2016 was \$7,664.01. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham gave the following reports: *Spraying Bids* - Bid from Smith Landscape - \$3,900 for spraying in middle of trail crushed limestone (not including bridges); \$4,773 for entire trail (some sprays cannot be used next to water sources). Bid from Blue Grass - \$9,500 to 12,000. Bid from Dave Hodges from True Green (42 miles plus bridges) - approximately \$7,000. Considering spring spraying - perhaps twice/year. Plus spring and fall broadleaf spraying on sides. Revisit at February meeting. *Rolling Trail* - Keith Litchfield and Culham rolled some trail sections - did not seem to make a difference. Quote for rake and roll in the spring - \$750 for 42 miles. *Brush Cutting* - planned for mid October - Keith Litchfield quoted three options for brush cutting (see e-mail). **MOTION** to accept Keith Litchfield's option 3 for brush cutting for \$12,500 to be done in mid to late October, 2016. Baker/Church M/S/P
Maintenance Grant - Total maintenance costs add up to approximately \$10,000 over current grant amount. **MOTION** to request an additional grant of \$10,000 from MWMTA for 2016

Baker/Gustafson M/S/P *2017 Budget* - Following are 2017 maintenance needs: 10 mowings @ \$825/each - \$8,250; spraying - \$25,000; stump removal - \$1,000; raking and rolling - \$750. **MOTION** to request maintenance grant from MWMTA for 2017 for- \$37,000 Baker/Church M/S/P *Asphalt sealing* - we may have to start incorporating a plan for sealing. Nikki VanBloem (MDNR) will look at cracks in Fowler. Cost is approximately \$4,000/per mile for sealing

- a) *Invasive Species Survey* - Culham stated that we are in pretty good shape for completing the survey - there were sufficient volunteers. We have till end of the month to complete the survey and we should have no trouble completing it in time. Survey area covers several counties (Shiawassee not included). It is unclear what funds are available for spraying/control of invasive species. We will re-visit spraying the Japanese Knotweed at Shepardsville Road in February.

9. Old Business

- a) *Benches - Update* - McLeod picked out location for her bench between Carland and Baldwin roads. Three open spots for benches yet.
- b) *Conservation Officer - Update* - No report.
- c) *MSU Survey* - This has been completed.
- d) *Signs (St. Johns signage)* - These were supposed to be completed no later than Labor Day, but nothing yet. Knight will check into the status.

10. New Business -

- a) *Budget (for MWMTA)* - See Item 8 - Maintenance above.
- b) *Trail Event Fees* - Culham is working with River Valley Trails on a plan (Robert Brown, Chairperson). They are in the process of developing a master trail event fee plan. Church says he is still trying to cover up signs painted on the trail surface from an event on the trail. Suggested we institute a refundable deposit to cover damages.
- c) *Hazardous crossings* - Noted that it is hazardous for pedestrians to cross at Shepardsville, Hollister and Carland roads. We may wish to consider asking for different signage (blinking lights, etc.) to warn pedestrians at these crossings. McLeod will pursue with MDNR and MDOT
- d) *Website* - Consensus that it is imperative that our website be updated on a regular basis. Knight will contact the webmaster.

11. Next Meeting Date/Location –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at the Owosso Township Hall.

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

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon