



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 11, 2017
7:00 pm, Clinton County Court House
St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Vice Chairperson Salemi called meeting to order at 7:09 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Barry Culham (Trail Manager), Dave Weber, Kathy Simon, Doug Hyland, Ardelle Rodgers, Terry McLeod (Ex-Officio), John Salemi
 - b. **Absent:** Rick Church, Pam Weisenburger, Marshall Baker, Janice Gustafson
 - c. **Guests:** Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting. Weber/Hyland M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Mr. Trumble stated he removed one of the trees discussed last month. He has marked trees that need to be removed near Muir. He also commented on trail users that were complimenting our trail. Culham stated that Tom Thumb (MSU student) marked low hanging branches, gopher holes, etc.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Hyland/Weber M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod stated that Gunderson reported a balance in the Ionia account of \$107,698.00 (Grand Rapids Foundation fiscal year is July 1 to June 30). They received a check from the Lappen Insurance Agency for the destroyed bench on the FMCIS Trail for \$1,279. MWMTA agreed to cover the \$500 deductible. They will send the Friends of the FMCIS Trail a check for \$1,779.00. Gunderson also emailed the three Friends groups budget for 2018. They will review the budgets at the financial meeting scheduled before their next meeting in October. The MWMTA agreed to send a letter of support for the FMRVR Trail DNR trust fund application. McLeod stated they discussed insurance policies on a conference call with Steve Lappen of the Lappen Insurance Agency. The FMCIS Friends Group did not have property insurance on the destroyed bench but were able to collect through the MWMTA policy. The FMCIS Friends Group will be reviewing their insurance policy when it expires in April and will probably switch to Lappen Insurance. The MWMTA motioned to pay up to \$1,000 for insurance coverage for each of the three Friends Groups, to come out of the MWMTA Administration costs. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2017.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson was not present but emailed the financial report. She reported that there had been no activity in September. The ending funds balance remains at \$17,603.94 and the grant balance at \$3,797.68 **MOTION** to approve Financial Report. Simon/Rodgers M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported that they found another culvert that's a problem. Located between Sherman and Smith roads behind the refinery, it's about 3 foot wide. Discussion ensued on whether the Friends Group is fiscally responsible for repair of these culverts, since they were a pre-existing condition that should have been engineered prior to building the trail. Four have already gone bad, not including one fixed by Clinton County. Salemi will draft a letter stating that this is an MDOT/DNR fiscal responsibility. Culham stated he would like to have a clean up day for trimming low hanging branches, cutting down trees, etc. by the end of the month or early

November. He will identify areas that need work. He stated that we did get money for Gustafson's destroyed bench and has talked to her about the placement of a new bench, but no decision has been made yet. He is working on getting money from DNR for the chloride treatment. We are now registered with the State of Michigan as a vendor, so we can now submit our bills to be reimbursed. He stated that we have \$3,797 left in our MWMTA grant - which is not enough to cover cost of culvert. **MOTION** to apply for an additional \$10,000 from the MWMTA grant. Simon/Hyland M/S/P He also stated that we will need to purchase the non-motorized signs near Wagar Road ourselves. We also needed to replace a stop sign in St. Johns - about\$40/sign including posts.

9. Old Business

- a) *Event and Volunteer forms* - No action (remove item next month)
- b) *Fund Raising* - The Ionia Rotary Club in Ionia reportedly raised \$23,000 in their first bike ride on the trail with approximately 175 riders. This will be an annual event. Discussed reasons for raising funds may be to pave the trail.
- c) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project* - Met with students prior to meeting and gave them ideas for their signage project.
- d) *Chain of Command Flow Chart* - Tabled.
- e) *Recent Vandalism on Trail/Insurance Claim* - Insurance claim has been filed and being processed.
- f) *2018 Budget* - Culham discussed our 2018 budget request to the MWMTA for maintenance. Mowing was our main issue this year. It was a dry summer, so we could have had fewer mowings, but we were locked into our contract. Would like to be able to build in more flexibility in our next contract. Decided to remove \$3,600 for brushing (under Item A Vegetative Management). Culham will revise the budget accordingly. **MOTION** to approve the 2018 Budget Request as amended and authorize chairman to sign for submission to Authority. Hyland/Rodgers. M/S/P
- g) *Review of Liability Insurance* - Consensus that we ask for a quote from Lappen Insurance Agency for property insurance when ours lapses in April. Salemi will call current agency for our current coverage/premiums and quote for liability, property and directors from our current carrier and from Lappen.

10. New Business -

- a) *Set up Volunteer Dates* - Weber, Hyland and Culham will coordinate clean up days projects for late October/early November and communicate to Simon so she can advertise on Facebook.
- b) *Possible Change to Monthly Board Meeting Time* - Salemi will send an email to everyone to see if there would be any opposition to changing the board meeting time for the November meeting time to 6pm. However, we will tentatively change to 6 pm. **MOTION** to cancel the monthly meeting in December. Hyland/Simon M/S/P
- c) *Possible Board Member Resignation/Vacancy* - One of the current board members has unofficially stated his intention to resign from the board, but has not officially done so. When/if the vacancy is official , we will look for volunteers on Facebook

11. Next Meeting Date/Location –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 6 pm at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:32 pm. Weber/Hyland M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon