



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, November 9, 2016 7:00 pm, Clinton County Courthouse, St. Johns, 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, Kyle Knight, Rick Church, Pam Weisenburger, Dave Weber
 - b. *Absent:* Marshall Baker, Guy Buckingham, Kathy Simon
 - c. *Guests:* Robert Flynn
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016, as amended. Weber/Gustafson M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Bob Flynn thanked us for placing the minutes on our website.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Weber/Gustafson M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported MWMTA has a balance of \$104,847.43 and will be paying the \$10,000 grant to the FMCIS and \$23,255 to Heartland Trail for seal coating from that balance. The following was approved for the 2017 budget year: Heartland Trail - \$27,900, FMCIS - \$37,000, River Valley - \$17,100 and the MWMTA - \$6,200, for a total budget of \$88,200. Also approved was \$71,000 for improvements to the undeveloped sections for work on culverts and bridges. Next meeting is November 17, 2016.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported that there was \$1,724.01 remaining in the grant balance. The additional \$10,000 grant should come in this week. Current balance of \$15,000.20. Knight said that the McLeod bench that Smith Landscaping installed was billed at \$1,300 and we had been paying \$1,100. It was decided to cover the extra \$200 but get bids for the next bench. **MOTION** to approve the financial report. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported Litchfield will do stump grinding next week and he is borrowing the grinder with the agreement to replace the two sets of blades at \$600 each. We budgeted \$1,000 and he will accept that and cover the other \$200. Litchfield has finished brushing back the trail but a lot of debris and thorns on the trail. Looking to see about blowing it clear or building a float to remove debris and smooth the trail. Have not heard back from VanBloem (DNR) and the DNR Engineer about the surface problems on the trail. DNR has requested that we identify all the culverts on the trail. Maybe some more culverts to repair.
9. **Old Business**
 - a) *Benches - Update* - No report.
 - b) *Conservation Officer - Update* - No report (this item to be removed from future agendas).
 - c) *Trail Event Fees* - Robert Brown is working on this.
 - d) *Hazardous Crossings* - McLeod reported she had heard back from MDOT and he sent some signage possibilities. McLeod spoke with Joe Pulver, the Clinton County Road Commissioner, and he is going to look at the three crossings (Shepardsville, Carland and Hollister roads) and get back with his recommendations.

- e) *Website* - Culham has been making improvements. Additional ideas were discussed. Will brainstorm at next meeting.
- f) *2017 Annual Meeting* - Knight said that the Liquid Ag facility was available March 8. He will reserve it. We will have them supply lemonade and Knight will bring cookies. It was decided to have VanBloem (DNR) and Barry Culham speak.
- g) *Fund Raising* - Tabled.

10. New Business -

- a) *Possibility of Paid Trail Manager* -Discussed possibilities. Will brainstorm at the next meeting.
- b) *Wayfaring Signs* - Knight said they were installed. They are beautiful signs. Have not heard anything from VanBloem about MDOT accepting these signs, but we got all the correct approvals so she will have to convince MDOT that these are going to stay in place.
- c) *Possible Donation to New Fowler Trailhead* - Discussed possibilities. We did buy a brick at the Pewamo Depot and everyone felt that would be appropriate to do at Fowler also.

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

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P

Minutes taken by Terry McLeod