



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, November 8, 2017
7:00 pm, Clinton County Court House
St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairperson Church called meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Present:* Rick Church, Ardelle Rodgers, John Salemi, Janice Gustafson, Dave Weber, Doug Hyland, Barry Culham (Trail Manager)
 - b. *Absent:* Pam Weisenburger, Marshall Baker, Kathy Simon, Terry McLeod (Ex-Officio)
 - c. *Guests:* Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting. Salemi/Weber M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Mr. Trumble reported that he and Hyland removed the ash trees that he agreed to last month. They handed out 250 juice boxes at the Trunk or Treat in Muir. They were all gone between 6:00 and 6:45. There were 36 cars along the trail. Church suggested we consider promoting this next year to get other communities along the trail involved in their own event.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – Request to add item 10e - Lions Club Event. **MOTION** to approve the amended agenda. Weber/Hyland M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – (Culham presented report for McLeod) Culham reported that Gustafson had straightened the MWMTA up concerning their questions about the finances. Gustafson stated that they were comparing the amount we spent with the amount we were paid. Culham stated that Heather Hanover reported that a light will be installed under the viaduct in St. Johns. The City of St. Johns will pay for electricity for the light. The next meeting date for the MWMTA is November 16th.
7. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Gustafson reported that the total of deposits for the month of October totaled \$50 (\$10 for dues, \$40 of donations). Total disbursement totaled \$1,000 for the chloride treatment. The State of Michigan will be reimbursing us for the \$1,000. The ending Operating Balance was \$12,856.26. The remaining Grant Fund balance is \$3,797.68. **MOTION** to reimburse Weber \$15.90 for mulch he used around fencing in Pewamo. Hyland/Rodgers M/S/P
Culham will be submitting a \$600 invoice (approved at a prior meeting) for the tree cutting. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report. Weber/Hyland M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** - Culham reported that he had met with the DNR concerning the culvert in Ovid. The DEQ is requesting that the required permits be filled out. The DNR engineer, Steve, told Culham that he would help with the permits and plans. Permits could range anywhere between \$50 to \$1,000. The money not used for seal coating might be able to be used for the culvert. The Authority will pay for the work separate from our Budget. The money will not come out of our Grant. The seal coating/crack repair will be done next week by Williams of St. Johns. The rain has delayed the project. Culham is going to let the MWMTA know about the message we received from Scott Post. Ben Frederick will meet with MDOT next Monday concerning the connection of our trail into Owosso. The major hold-up is the crossing of the trail over M-21.

Representative Richards is also being met with. The section of trail east of Smith road is owned under a different part of MDOT.

9. *Old Business*

- a) *Fund Raising* - Church pointed out that we need to pick a project for fund raising.
- b) *Wayfaring Signs/MSU Student Project* - Hyland met with the students Sunday. They drove most of the trail. Each of the 5 took a portion of the trail. GPS coordinates were taken. Their class ends the middle of December. Culham met with MSU students concerning the horse trail plans they had developed so far for credit for their class. He, Kristen Bennett, and Nikki Van Bloem (from the DNR) drove the trail from St. Johns to Ovid to check it out. The students will be showing their 90% complete plans on Wednesday, November 29th. The DNR engineers will be looking at the plans. They will be the ones to make the final plans. The proposed horse trail will not happen for a long time. Clinton Transit has offered their property that runs along the trail for a trail head for horses and biking.
- c) *Chain of Command Flow Chart* - Church stated that we need to be more proactive in promoting and connecting the trail through the use of a state representative flow chart. State representatives for Clinton and Ionia counties were identified as Leonard and Albert, respectively.
- d) *2018 Maintenance Budget* - Culham presented the revised Maintenance Budget. The \$10,000 for culvert repair has been taken out of the original request as the Authority may pay for it separate from our maintenance budget. The mowing request has been reduced from \$10,000 to \$7,500. We will mow 5 feet the first time and all over the second time. Debris removal remains \$12,000, surface improvements remains \$20,000. Cleanup has been reduced from the original \$1,500 to \$600. Added \$500 for safety/regulatory. Both maps/brochures and insurance remain at \$1,000 each. The original total (\$60,600) has been reduced to \$42,600. The Finance Committee has approved the budget. The Authority still needs to approve it. The new budget total shows an amount of \$42,000 which must be adjusted to show the actual total of \$42,600. Culham will not be applying for any more grant money at this time.
- e) *Review of Liability Insurance* - Our current policy includes \$1,000,000 of general liability that covers suing for injury at a cost of \$150/year and coverage for directors and officers which costs \$744/year. We do not have property damage as we are covered under the MWMTA's policy. Salemi stated that D&O covers things like wrongful termination and sexual harassment, but does not cover embezzlement. Our current treasurer, Gustafson, is bonded, so the latter does not matter at this time. Salemi questioned whether or not we need D&O. He will get a quote for insurance from Steve Lappen.
- f) *Set Up of Volunteer Dates* - Culham stated that he will wait until March to set up dates for volunteer work as people are hunting along the trail right now. He will mark the culverts that have trees growing across them.

10. *New Business* -

- a) *2018 Annual Meeting (date, location, etc.)* - Church asked if we want to hold the meeting at Fowler. We can check with Simon next month. Weber mentioned that we have used the Pewamo Village Hall also in the past. Church said he could check around Owosso if we wanted him to. We will wait until next month to check on our options. The meeting was set for Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00pm.
- b) *2018 Budget* - Gustafson presented the 2018 Budget. She will adjust it to reflect the reduction of the Maintenance Grant from \$60,600 to \$42,600, **MOTION** to accept the 2018 Budget with the amendment for amount of the grant received. Salemi/Hyland MS/P
- c) *Winter Meeting Schedule* - It was decided to leave the meeting time as is at 6:00 pm. The December meeting was already cancelled at last month's meeting. We will decide on summer months later.
- d) *Voting by Electronic Means/Processes* - Salemi stated that if we want to allow electronic voting, we must amend the Bylaws by introducing the proposal at one meeting and voting on it at the next meeting. **MOTION** to introduce a proposed amendment to Section 4.08 of the Bylaws to permit electronic voting and to place it on the next meeting Agenda for vote. Salemi/Hyland M/S/P

e) *Lions Club Event* - We received an Event Form from Tom Doyle for a Lions Club bicycle ride fund raiser for diabetes. The ride is from St. Johns to Owosso and back and will be held on May 5th. We will not charging a fee. **MOTION** to approve the Event Form for the Lions Club Fund raiser. Church/GustafsonMS/P

11. Next Meeting Date/Location – Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns. The December meeting has been cancelled.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Weber/Hyland M/S/P

Minutes taken by Ardelle Rodgers

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