



Friends of SMARTrails Board Meeting Minutes Monday, August 8, 2024 Kaleva Community Center 6:00 PM

Board Members Present: Zachary Pawlowski, vice chair; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Mark Coe, Dave Myers, Bonnie Brown, Claire Richard

Board Members Absent: Rob Carson, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: None

Call to Order Meeting called to order by Zachary Pawlowski, vice president at 6:00 PM.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **July 15, 2024 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Jacque, supported by Dave to accept the minutes from the July 15, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
June 10, 2024 meeting was cancelled, due to members of SMARTrails attending the Networks Northwest Community Discussion on the Manistee County Master Plan update.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque presented the Treasurers report, with the Community Foundation balance amount being \$4,130.18 and the Filer Credit Union account balance of \$7,905.72 and FCU Share Account \$14.60. One bill to Pro Web for \$25.00 for August. Linda motioned to approve the treasurers report and the payment of bills. Dave supported the motion. AIF Motion carried. In order to have Zach's name as an additional signer on our bank account, all the credit union needs is a copy of the minutes stating that we voted him as an additional signer. Linda will send Zach a copy of the minutes.
- II. **New Business :**
 1. **Letter of Support for Village of Kaleva Bathroom/Trailhead Facility.**
Katie Mehl, from Manistee County Planning has asked for a "Letter of Support" for the Village of Kaleva Bathroom/Trailhead Facility as they are going for a grant through MCCF in this cycle with a September deadline for match dollars for a DNR Trust Fund Grant application in the spring. It was motioned by Linda, supported by Zach to write a letter of support for this project. It was suggested to have Rob write the letter of support as he does such a nice job.
- III. **Old Business:**

1. EDA Update

Rob reported in an email that the EDA grant has not changed much, but Networks Northwest hired a lobbyist consultant who is working through the governors office to get this project moving forward. Linda stated that at the County Recreation Commission meeting that there was discussion of steps to take to help to get things moving, like possibly writing a letter, or contacting a local state representative. The County Recreation Commission would like to help if possible to get this moving.

2. Reports from different trail entities

Snowbirds: Mark Coe reported the first meeting of the year for the Snowbirds will be September 4. Mark stated that Friday of this week, they will be meeting with Scott Slavin and Michael Cote and he will ask about the bridge over Bear Creek. The snowmobile trail from Thompsonville to Interlochen is in the works with the trailhead at Interlochen Corners (Old Rics Food Center).

3. Dirtbirds: They have done presentations to all but one Township in Manistee County with getting letters of support, talked with the Sheriff Department, got permission to go over Red Bridge and High Bridge and been in many festival parades. On Saturday of this week they are going for a ride and having pizza delivered on the trail.

IV. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update: Linda reported on the County Recreation Commission meeting August 5, 2024. Ric Alameddine presented a PowerPoint presentation as part of his update on the Onekama Trail and had many questions, one of them being the hiring of a grant writer and if the Manistee County grant writer would be able to help. Katie Mehl also discussed the cost of the Kaleva Bathroom/Trailhead Facility, and whether it would be possible to complete the project in phases. It was decided to possibly sending out RFQ's to find alternate amounts for the project, and to attend the Kaleva Village Council and see how they want to proceed. Mr Schulke asked if the Kaleva to Chief trail had a name, with the DNR owning the trail, they probably have the naming routes to the trail. Linda will ask at the SMARTrails meeting.

2. Summer Festivals

Linda manned a table at Copemish Heritage Days this year on August 3, 2024. Lots of people asked when the trail would be done, as they are waiting to use it. Only had the old map, but explained the future and lots of excitement.

3. SMARTrails Mapping Of The Trail Assets in Manistee County : The discussion centered around having a flip chart of some kind to show all the various trails in the County (possibly 15-20 different trails). Dave Jarvi, from Manistee County Planning Department was in attendance and will check on what they may have in their G.I.S. system. It was motioned and supported to allow \$1,500.00 to begin this process to promote trails in Manistee County. Roll Call Vote showed all ayes, no nays.

V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

The DNR names trails. The Snowbirds have numbered trails. The trail from Thompsonville to Chief is called the Thompsonville Express. The Betsie Valley Trail runs from Frankfort to Mesick.

VI. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by: **Linda Cudney, Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**