



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2024
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, President; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Zachary Pawlowski, Vice President; Bonnie Brown, Dave Myers, Mark Coe, Claire Richard.

Board Members Absent: Jacque Erdman, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Sara Herberger from Manistee County Community Foundation, Wayne Beldo, Maple Grove Supervisor.

Call to Order Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, President at 6:10 PM.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **January 8, 2024 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Mark, supported by Claire to accept the minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
In Jacque's absence, she sent a Treasurers report showing a balance of \$12,197.97 (\$4,035.82 Community Foundation and \$5.00 FCU Share Acct, and \$8,149.15 in FCU). No bills were presented at this time. Motioned by Zach, supported by Mark to approve the Treasurer's report.
Rob received a check for \$1,400.00 from Prince & Monton, PLC for a balance of unused retainer. It was motioned by Rob, supported by Claire to deposit the check into the SMART account (as the check is written out to Friends of SMARTrails, and earmark it to go to the Manistee County Planning Department for assistance in funding the large Park to Park Maps and Trail Segment Description). AIF. Motion carried. Linda will get the check to Jacque.
- II. **New Business :**
 1. **Robs Presentation to the County Recreation Commission**
Robs presentation to the Recreation Commission was very well received and with comments from Mark, (Great job Rob and Mark), all appreciated the presentation update so the whole County board knows what SMART is doing. Rob pointed out the need for collaboration and partnerships of the various groups. Meg Batzer, had a few suggestions for the presentation, Rob will get with Zach and go over her suggestions.
 2. **Possible monetary help with Park to Park map**
Covered under Treasurers Report.

3. **Strategic Plan Additions/changes.**

It was decided the Strategic Plan is good, with the new updates to the map and Trail segment

III. Old Business:

1. **EDA Update**

Rob reported the documents are in the State of Michigan hands waiting for the attorney general's signature. Then final documents and design documents and cost estimates will be sent to the engineer contact with the EDA & DNR. Everything is on target.

2. **Update of Website**

Will need spring pictures of board members and a list of summer events. Also, suggested was a QR code for our 501C-3 to donate on the website. The QR code is already on our rack cards.

IV. Other Business

1. **Recreation Commission Update:**

Linda & Wayne gave an update on the County Recreation Commission meeting. Linda will make the minutes available to the SMART board members in the future.

2. **Summer Festivals**

Will try and have them at the March meeting. Some are not listed yet. It was suggested to target trail users.

3. Mark Coe asked about an inventory of trails in Manistee County, which would list and include all the different trails (snowmobile, hiking, biking, water trail, backpacking, north country trail, Wellston Arboretum trail, Manistee River loop trail). Rob will look into this and start a list.

V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Claire asked about a non-profit account for Microsoft office to help with formatting information. This will be looked into.
2. Also discussed was a location to store our SMART materials. We have a table, an easel, banner, cash box, shirts, hats, etc. Wayne offered us a space at the Community Center. We will check into this at our next meeting.
3. Mark reported that the Dirt birds have an ORV route planned and is planning to present to various Townships.
4. Zach stated that Iron Fish Distillery connected him about an event. Possibly a cocktail hour fundraiser. More on this in a future meeting.
5. Rob assisted Katie Mehl with writing an RFP for "Preliminary Engineering & Cost Estimates for the proposed Trail Placement & Improvement".
6. In discussion on the SMART presentation to the various Townships, we will see if Rob can do a presentation at a monthly Michigan Townships Association meeting possibly in March, April or May. Linda will check on it as the next meeting will be March 27, 2024. MTA meets the 4th Wednesday of each month (March thru October) at a different Township every month. The March meeting will be in Arcadia Township.
7. Possible future meeting at Northern Natural regarding Chief to Adamson Lake Road.
8. Equestrian riding on our trails was discussed. Possible signage showing what trails are allowed.
9. New Manistee County Road Commission Manager is Brad Kluczynski, beginning 2/5/24. He is replacing Mark Scholden, who is retiring in March of 2024.
10. Next SMART meeting will be guest Charles Kraus from TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project).

VI. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails