



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 11, 2023
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

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

Board Members Absent: Jacque Erdman, Elaine Gibbs, Mark Coe.

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

Call to Order By vice president, Zachary Pawlowski, as Rob Carson is running a few minutes late.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **November 13, 2023 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Dave, supported by Claire to accept the minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque sent copies of the Treasurers report and copies were made for all. Linda Motioned to accept the Treasurers report, Dave supported the motion. AIF Motion carried.
- II. **New Business :**
 1. **Annual Meeting in January**
Linda will go over the bylaws and send out a reminder of things to discuss for the annual meeting ahead of time.
 2. **Join Chamber of Commerce**
Zach requested we look into joining the Chamber of Commerce. Leadership is interested in trails. With being a member, we can get SMARTrails out there. He will check and see if we can join as a non profit for free, If not, it was motioned by Linda, supported by Claire to look into joining and not to exceed \$250.00 to join.
- III. **Old Business:**
 1. **Strategic Plan**
Claire updated the maps but ran out of ink in her printer but will send on the maps to all. She updated the Park to Park map with an icon where the bridge will go north of Kaleva, plus existing routes and current project site. Claire asked about the program "Canva" a graphic art template, for non profits. She just needs an automated reply for access to use the

program. It was moved and supported to allow Claire to proceed with this. AIF.

2. EDA Update

Rob reported the engineering team confirmed everything is okay for final engineering. Permits have been issued and construction bids will be done by spring, so it can be constructed in summer of 2024.

IV. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Two people are up for reappointment (Robert Schulke and Devin Wegner), plus another member is needed for the Recreation Commission. Katie Mehl put together a timeline for the Thompsonville to Chief trail and Kaleva trailhead. Katie reported the DNR estimated Planning and Engineering of Thompsonville to Chief would be \$50,000.00, which would be applied to the MCCF in the spring of 2024 and would need a match of 10% (\$5,000.00). The DNR Trust Fund is \$300,000.00 and requires a 25% minimum match at \$75,000.00. For the \$75,000.00 match, the idea is to go for a MCCF grant that would cover it and we would need the 10% match at \$7,500.00. So approximately \$5,000.00 would be needed in spring of 2024 and \$7,500.00 by the spring of 2025 to these grants. Discussion on a feasibility study be done with more than one quote, to check on costs. Rob volunteered to do an RFP to give to Katie at County Planning.

2. Fundraising for SMARTrails Presentation

Zack will work on getting a presentation ready for match money. The SMART rack card will need to be updated, plus the Strategic Plan will need to be updated. Keep thinking of ideas to raise the match money for these projects.

3. Site Visit at for Kaleva Village Park Trailhead.

Wayne Beldo and Sara Herberger reported on the meeting with Manistee County Community Foundation, Members of Manistee County Recreation Commission, Village of Kaleva, and County Planning on November 21, 2023 for a potential trailhead at the Kaleva Village Park.

V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

Claire reported that the USFS okayed a "Fat Trail Groomer" and the Shoreline Cycling Club volunteers worked at the Big M (clearing 1.8 miles, etc) for a trail for Fat tire bikes.

VI. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:11 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails