



Friends of SMARTrails Board Meeting Minutes Monday, July 10, 2023 Kaleva Community Center 6:00 PM

Board Members Present: Karen Kolk, Vice President, Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Mark Coe, Zachary Pawlowski, Dave Myers, Claire Richard.

Board Members Absent: Elaine Gibbs, Rob Carson.

Guests: Jan Myers, Reese Borlin, Scott Cichoracki, Wayne Beldo

- I. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Karen Kolk, vice president.
- II. Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 - 1. June 12, 2023 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Jacque Erdman, supported by Dave Myers to accept the minutes from the June 12, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 - 2. Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque Erdman presented the financial report through July 10, 2023 for all. The last of the Minger Fund money was transferred into the checking account, and budgeted for marketing, based on quotes from places for merchandise. Bills this month included \$60.00 for Post Office box, \$9.28 for postage, \$20.00 for the Annual Report, \$50.00 to Pro Web Marketing, \$153.48 to Jackpine for cash box and easel. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Zach seconded it. AIF.
 3. Jacque got a Debit Card from Filer Credit Union to use for purchases as discussed last month at the June meeting. It was motioned and supported to have Zach keep the debit card and use if something is needed right away. If the expenditure is over the \$1,000.00 amount, then the item will come back to the board for approval. Motion by Jacque, supported by Claire. AIF.
- III. New Business :**
 - 1. Scott Cichoracki, US Forest Service**
Scott introduced himself as the new Recreation Management Specialist, who took over from Travis Owens. Scott has only been on the job for 3 ½ months and approximately 80% of his staff is new also. Reece Borlin is the current Recreation Planner. The main focus at this time with the USFS is the McKenzie Trail System and Timber sales contracts. The SMARTrails group alerted Scott to improvements needed at the Big M, such as area erosion, possible rerouting some trails, and signage. Also community-wide support for more loop

backpacking trails on USFS lands and coordination for the regional multi-use trail development from Manistee to Wellston and into Wexford County. Scott took this into consideration and informed us that the funding for this year has already been allotted, but possibly next year. Mark Coe from the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds stated that the Snowbirds groom 160 miles of snowmobile trail from High Bridge to Maple City and also there is a newly formed group called the "Dirtbirds" who are working on trails for ORV's in Manistee County. Linda will add Scott to the email list to keep him abreast of what is happening with SMARTrails.

IV. Old Business

1. Update of Website

It looks good, but is a work in progress. People are signing on, so that is a good sign.

2. EDA Update

Rob reported that the survey and geotechnical services have been done. Soil borings are being done near the bridge on Bear Creek. The engineering team met with EGLE to discuss permits and no issues were presented. The permits will be issued once the design is complete and applications are submitted. Everything is on schedule.

3. Strategic Plan Update

Still need to work on Trail descriptions. The marketing committee is scheduled to meet again on August 10, 2023 at the Cleon Township Hall at 6:00 PM.

4. Summer Festivals

Linda plans on being at the set up for the 5-K for Kaleva Heritage Days on July 15th. Linda will also volunteer for Copemish Heritage Days on August 5, 2023. No one is available for Onekama Days at this time. It was decided that the "Big Bear Butt Cruise" was a great place to volunteer at and possibly we could put some information, etc. in their pack they do for the bikers. Branded items were discussed to pass out with our rack cards for the Big Bear Butt Cruise. Other festivals will be discussed at the August meeting.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Meeting was postponed until July 11, 2023 because of the July 4th holiday.

2. Marketing Committee Update

Did not meet.

3. The Chief Trailhead was discussed and will need preliminary engineering plans plus materials. Wayne Beldo also mentioned that the Village of Kaleva were thinking of a staging area close by the Village park. Wayne will bring this up at the County Recreation Commission meeting. Maybe the County Recreation Commission and County grant writer can pursue these options along with the trail from Thompsonville to Kaleva with a Trust Fund Grant.

4. Thompsonville to Interlochen Trail. Mark Coe reported that Elmers has looked at the Bendon route to Interlochen and AJ's scope of cost to do the minimal surface (1/2 the surface like Maple Grove to Chief), a culvert needs to be set near Interlochen, plus 6 ballast points in a wet area. Thompsonville to Reynolds Road is a current trail route.

5. Correspondence from Rob. Linda read other correspondence from Rob, as he was not able to attend this evening.

6. **Zach checked out the sandy areas discussed last month.** Doug Barry thought the DNR could possibly do something under maintenance but it would be too big of a task.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. **Phone numbers.** Attached find phone numbers for our members in case we need to get ahold of one or the other.

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:35 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails

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