



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2023
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Karen Kolk, Vice-president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; and Dave Myers.

Board Members Absent: Elaine Gibbs, Rob Carson, Zach Pawlowski, Claire Richards

Guests: Mark Coe, Wayne Beldo.

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Karen Kolk, vice president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.

1. **January 9, 2023 Board Minutes**

Motioned by Jacque Erdman, seconded by Dave Myers to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.

2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**

Jacque Erdman presented a financial report, which shows some paypal deposits, 2 bills: one for \$25.42 for postage and the one recurring bill monthly to Pro Web Marketing for \$25.00. Jacque reported she sent out the end of the year 1099's and filed the annual 990 N Form to the IRS. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Dave seconded it. AIF.

Jacque suggested we look at the budget for income and expenses for 2023. We can finalize it at our March meeting.

- III. **New Business**

1. **Marketing Committee Update**

Jacque, Linda, Zach and Claire met on January 19, 2023 via Microsoft Teams. Some items of discussion were a survey to send with the next newsletter; NOMI Racing "Run The Pier" event on August 12th; Discuss what we need on the homepage on the website; building a presentation after the EDA grant is finalized; and keep the Trail Summit on the horizon, (maybe invite TARP, FBVT, Friends of SMARTrails, and the County Recreation Commission to speak on their various activities) and possibly ask Tamara to be a mediator.

2. **Meeting dates for 2023**

If we are planning to present this summer, we will need to get a list of Summer events list and decide who will be taking care of the SMARTrails booth. It was discussed that possibly on National Trails Day, we could set up in Thompsonville and that it would be a good way to get publicity out about our EDA grant. Linda will try to find out the dates of the various

summer events and send it out with minutes.

IV. Old Business

1. Update of Website

Not sure how Rob came out with Jim Gribble. Will discuss more next meeting.

2. EDA Update

Rob is not in attendance, but Mark Coe stated that the RFP has been released.

3. MOU between FBVT, TARP & SMART

Rob had sent out a MOU to all to look over on January 12, 2023. The consensus of members attending tonight is that it looked good. We can check with others at the next Board meeting on March 13, 2023.

V. Other Business

1. **Recreation Commission Update.** Linda reported on the Recreation Commission meeting which was held at the County Planning Building in January. Discussion on the removal of Tippy Dam and Hodenpyl Dam. The Recreation Commission sent a letter of support in the opposition of the removal, along with the County Board of Commissioners, due to endangered species using them as a habitat (brown bat and trumpeter swan). Erin Secord, Secretary resigned from the County Recreation Commission as she was moving to the Upper Peninsula. Gary Schwaiger has been appointed Secretary. Others nominated were incumbents Wayne Beldo as chair and Meg Batzer as vice-chair. Linda Cudney and Wayne Beldo were re-appointed to the Recreation Commission at the December 20, 2022 Commissioners meeting for a 3 year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025. The County decided not to apply for the SPARK Grant, but there will be another round in April 2023. The Leadership Cohort Committee has decided this years project will be building and installing life jacket loaner stations in Bear Lake, Onekama, and the City of Manistee who have accepted. Waiting on Arcadia and Manistee Township. Filer Township declined.
2. **Mark Coe from the Snowbirds:** Mark reported on various items:
 - a. Mark would like permission to use our Park to Park map for a letter to purchase a brush arm tractor and mower. He will send a letter of request to various entities. It was motioned by Dave, seconded by Linda to allow the Snowbirds to use our map. AIF Motion carried.
 - b. Mark Coe participated in a zoom call with Matt Torino, from the Michigan DNR; Scott Slavin from the Michigan DNR, Rob Carson from Networks Northwest and Laura Heintzelman to pursue the Chief to Manistee trail.
 - c. The Snowbirds are looking at forming a ORV Club (Dirt Trails) to designate the ORV routes. They are looking for volunteers to join.
 - d. Snowbirds are working with the DNR to pursue the trail north of Thompsonville to Interlochen.
3. Dave asked Mark about the width of the railroad grades. The typical width is 50 ft wide but some are 100 feet wide.
4. Tamara Buswinka sent the Strategic Plan but none of the updates were put in from our last meeting. Should we invite Tamara back so she can get it updated or have a work session and send the notes on to her.

VI. Board members Comments/Correspondence

- 1.1. Jacque received a letter from the Manistee County Community Foundation with a fund statement balance ending December 31, 2022.

1. 1.

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:10 P.M.

VIII. Next meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2023, at 9208 Kauko Street, Kaleva at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney
Secretary
Friends of SMARTrails**

DRAFT