



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday August 8, 2022
Village of Kaleva (former Elementary School)
6:00 PM**

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

Board Members Absent: Mary Reed, Al Taylor, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Brian Hren, Jan Myers.

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Rob Carson, President.
- II. **Consent Agenda July 11, 2022, meeting minutes**
 1. Motioned by Dave Myers, seconded by Jacque Erdman to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2022 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. Jacque Erdman furnished a Profit and Loss Budget Review, Statement of Financial Position and a list of income and expenses. She also had bills to approve at this meeting for Pro Web, and Corporate Filing from the State of Michigan. Jacque reported that there was a \$75.00 donation thru Paypal to the Filer Credit Union account. Motioned by Linda, seconded by Karen to accept the Treasurers Report and the payment of bills. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business**
 1. **Invite new County Grant Writer, William Kennis to SMARTrails meeting.** Linda talked to Mike Szokola and he will send Mr Kennis information to Rob.
 2. **Rest of the summer list of events for Manistee County festivals.** The Manistee County Fair will be manned by Jacque and Dave and Jan Myers. Zack will hand out rack cards for “Run The Pier”. Rob will take care of Brethren Days with handing out rack cards for the 5-K Runners. The Rusty Fish is in October.
 3. **Volunteer Shirts.** Linda checked with SportsInk and if we use all the colors in the SMARTrails logo the set up fee and shirts will be very expensive. It was decided to use a tri-color on the neon green shirts (if they were available, as they were not as Linda talked to them). If not, they will find a close color. An option is to put the SMARTrails logo on the front and SMARTrails Volunteer on the back. There is a price break at 25 shirts. It was also decided that the hats will have the SMARTrails logo on the front and SMARTrails spelled out on the back. Linda will go in the next day or two and order and find out when they will be ready.
- IV. **Old Business.**
 1. **Update of Website.** Zach is working on the website.
 2. **EDA Grant.** Rob reported they are tying up loose ends. There will be an award letter first, then the press release, RFP’s, estimates, construction costs, permits, etc.
 3. **Festival Updates.** Linda reported on Copemish Heritage Days. Lots of interest in trails, as the first one is coming to Copemish. A suggestion was to put that we are a 501 C-3 on the rack card. Also, TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project) people were at Copemish Heritage Days and they want to put a welcome center in Thompsonville in the future, so that

will be a great asset to the trails to Copemish and Kaleva.

V. Other Business

1. **Recreation Commission Update.** Linda reported on the County Recreation Commission. Mike Szokola stated the board should be aware that the new grant writer, William Kennis, may fill up his schedule quickly, so to get on board with him as soon as possible to help with grants. The Recreation Commission asked for \$15,000.00 of the County ARPA money to help staff the Recreation Plan. A question was asked about a bike trail along Memorial Drive as it is being worked on, and also, the upcoming US-31 bridge renovation. Suggestions were to bring it to the City of Manistee Park and Recreation Committee, although a deadline may have passed for the project.
2. **Marketing Committee Update.** Working on T-shirts and hats for now.
3. **Fund Raising Update.** Jacque contacted Steve DeBrabander, from Michigan Trails Funds and Peter Remington from the Remington Group and Rob, Jacque, Linda, Al and Zach were present for the Zoom meeting. They gave us fundraising ideas: (1) Have a priority list (2) Have a list of donors in mind (3) Need a Strategic Plan (4) Share the list. They can help with funding with a 10 percent Administrative fee.
4. **Thank you cards to Aiden Mertes and Jenna Mullen.** Linda sent thank you cards to Aiden who helped with the new design for SMARTrails and Jenna who designed the banner for us.
5. **As we may be losing a Board member, Jacque nominated Zachary Pawlowski to our SMARTrails Board, Karen seconded.** AIF. Zach accepted. Welcome to our TEAM, Zach.

VI. Board Member Comments/Correspondence.

1. Zach stated that Bonnie Brown may be interested in SMARTrails.
2. Jacque asked about preparing an updated budget for 2022.
3. According to our Strategic Plan, Tamara is supposed to be attending the September meeting. Rob will contact Tamara and see what her plans are.

VII. Adjourn.

Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:10 PM.

VIII. Next meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2022, at 9208 Kauko Street, Kaleva.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary
Friends of SMARTrails

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