



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 12, 2023
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

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

Board Members Absent: Elaine Gibbs, Karen Kolk..

Guests: Jan Myers, Suzanne Riley, Doug Barry, Wayne Beldo

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Rob Carson, president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **May 8, 2023 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Mark Coe, supported by Dave Myers to accept the minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque Erdman presented the financial report. She had the combined Minger grant money in the report. It was motioned by Linda, supported by Mark to transfer the balance of the Minger Foundation money to marketing, so the grant can be closed out. AIF. Motion carried. The monthly bill for Pro Marketing can be done online now, so a check will not have to be written each month.. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Zach seconded it. AIF.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Scott Cichoracki, US Forest Service**
Rob reported that Scott could not attend the meeting this month but would try and be at the July meeting.
 2. **Fund Raising**
Discussion on various ideas on fund raising such as checking to see if a bike can be donated. Various other grants were discussed besides the Minger Grant, to raise match money. Members will see if they can come up with ideas for fund raising. It would be great to raise possibly up to \$15,000.00 towards the cost of the preliminary engineering studies for the Thompsonville to Kaleva Trail. Doug Barry stated that there was a RAISE grant, a Federal grant (due around Christmas) and no match required.

IV. Old Business

1. Update of Website

The consensus of all is that it looks great. Good job Zach.

2. EDA Update

Rob met with the engineering firm and the RFP's were done. EDA has an agreement with the engineering firm and will have final engineering the end of summer. Next will be the permitting through EGLE and permits should be done in the fall. Construction bidding should be done by May 1, 2024 work done in the summer of 2024. The Construction has to be done by 2025.

3. Strategic Plan Update

Still a work in progress.

4. Summer Festivals

Mark Coe will volunteer at the Spirit of the Woods festival. Jacque will volunteer at Bear Lake Days. We will need someone for Kaleva Days July 15-16. Linda will volunteer for Copemish Days. 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. Because of so many dates, it will not be possible to attend all of them so went through the most important ones. We can figure out Kaleva Days and Onekama Days at the July meeting.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda and Wayne Beldo reported on the Recreation Commission meeting on June 5, 2023. Mr Beldo requested that anyone on the Recreation commission could volunteer at any of the festivals in the County along with SMARTrails members. Linda sent out a list of summer festivals to the Recreation Commission. The contract between the City of Manistee and the County Planning Department was not renewed, so the County Planning Department will have a staff member to fill the recreation manager position. The County grant writer was able to secure a grant for \$426,000.00 for a study for the "Rail Relocation Project". The County did not apply for the second round of the SPARK grant but will try for round 3. Mr Beldo signed a letter of support for new infrastructure at the Spirit of the Woods in Dickson Township.

2. Marketing Committee Update

Did not meet.

VI. Comments/Correspondence

1. The Chief Trailhead was discussed and will need preliminary engineering plans plus materials. Possibly apply for a Minger Grant October 1, 2023.

2. Thompsonville to Interlochen Trail. Mark reported that EGLE looked at the trail and there may be money through the DNR Snowmobile Grant Program. There is a new EGLE Representative to work with.

3. Leffew Road Bridge Over Bear Creek has needed to be replaced for many years and possibly a SPARK grant can be applied for to fix it.

4. Credit Card and Credit Card Policy Zach asked about a credit card and possibly a credit card policy, which can state a monetary level. It would be an easier way to buy things needed. Jacque will check with Filer Credit Union and we can discuss at the July meeting.

5. **Manistee County Road Commission owns land/railroad grade on the north side of Chief Lake, off Adamson Lake Road**, which would make a nice short trail. Rob and Zach will talk to Scott Slavin from the DNR and the Road Commission to see if the Road Commission will give ownership to the DNR, to make a nice short trail for bicycles.
6. **Bridge over the Manistee River**, by Mesick is owned by MDOT, would complete the trail into Mesick. It is 210 ft across and 60 feet in the air. This will be an upcoming project.
7. **Zach will check out some sandy areas** where road gravel will be needed on a few spots on the trail to Kaleva.
8. **MOU with SMART, TARP and FBVT:** we finally got the signatures of Jed Maker and Charles Kraus, so Rob signed for SMARTrails. Linda will send the signed copies to FBVT and TARP.

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 8:45 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, July 10, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails