



**Friends of SMARTrails  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 14, 2023  
Kaleva Community Center  
6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Linda Cudney, Secretary; Zachary Pawlowski, Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Mark Coe, Rob arrived later.

**Board Members Absent:** Karen Kolk, Jacque Erdman, Elaine Gibbs.

**Guests:** Sara Herberger.

- I. **Call to Order With the President and Vice President both absent at this time, the Secretary appointed Zachary Pawlowski as chairperson.** The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by Zachary Pawlowski.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
  1. **August 14, 2023 Board Minutes**  
Motioned by Mark, supported by Claire to accept the minutes from the August 14, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
  2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**  
Jacque was absent but sent the financial documents for all to look at. There was some questions regarding closing out the Minger Grant. We moved the money into Marketing and need to purchase a SMARTrails banner and tent yet. Motioned by Mark, supported by Claire to accept the Treasurers report. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business :**
  1. **Resignation of Karen Kolk**  
Karen sent a letter of resignation which stated she made the decision to retire from SMARTrails as of August 18, 2023. Having served nearly 10 years, it was time for younger members. Linda made a motion to accept her resignation and will send her a "Thank You" card from all of us.
  2. **Appointing a Vice President**  
Karen was Vice President so a new one will have to be appointed. It was motioned and supported to nominate Zachary Pawlowski as Vice President, if he would accept. He accepted. Thank you Zach for stepping up.
  3. **Need Member on Filer Credit Union Bank Account**  
It was motioned and supported to allow Zach to be the second signature on the bank account

with Jacque at Filer Credit Union as he holds the Debit Card, and it will be easy to coordinate with Jacque, as he is there.

#### **4. Purchasing Policy**

Last month we discussed adopting a "Purchasing Policy". Linda came up with a one page easy to understand policy. It was motioned by Claire Richard, seconded by Dave Myers to adopt the Friends of SMARTrails Purchasing Policy as of 9/14/23. RCV. All Ayes. Motioned carried. Rob just needs to sign the bottom as President and it will take effect immediately.

### **IV. Old Business:**

#### **1. Strategic Plan:**

It should be done by the October meeting. There were some issues with the images. Needs some final editing for the map and trail descriptions.

#### **2. EDA Update**

Rob reported there was a follow up meeting with Scott Slavin from the DNR, Dave & Brian from EGLE, Joseph Williams and Shane Gamrat from Gourdie Frasier and Associates and Rob from Networks Northwest. The pre application was accepted, design done and permits need submitted. There was a question regarding soil testing.

#### **3. Summer Festivals**

Summer Festivals are pretty much over for the year with the exception of the Rusty Fish 100 on October 14, 2023. Possibly someone can cover this event, even though many events are going on that weekend.

### **V. Other Business**

#### **1. Recreation Commission Update**

Mark Coe introduced the new group called the "Manistee Benzie Dirtbirds" spearheaded by Tim and Cheri Knoper. Their mission is to establish and maintain trail systems of ORV proposed trail routes. They have stated that they have 140 miles of proposed ORV trail routes and 100 miles are in Manistee county. They asked for support from the Manistee County Recreation Commission. ORV map has been completed and distributed for review. Informed the Commission of a meeting with DNR (Alex McBride & Scott Slavin), MCCF (Laura Heintzeman & Sara Herberger), and Networks Northwest (Rob Carson) about projects in the future. Conversations with Doug Barry who has \$5,000.00 in grant funds for preparing a gravel parking area on the Chief Road Trailhead. New member on the Recreation Commission is Tony Lamb from Brown township. Mike Szkola is leaving Manistee County Planning Department.

#### **2. New member to replace Karen Kolk.:**

We will need to find a new member to replace Karen on our SMARTrails Board. It was suggested to ask Bonnie Brown from Onekama as she is an avid biker. Mark will get ahold of her see if she is interested and Linda can send her the agenda and minutes.

#### **3. Letter of Support to the County Recreation Commission**

Wayne Beldo is at a special meeting of the County Recreation commission meeting tonight but asked if we could send a "Letter of Support" from SMARTrails for the submission of a grant application for the Kaleva Village trailhead for an engineering study to the Manistee County Community Foundation. Rob offered to write the letter of support. Thank you Rob.

### **VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence**

Mark Coe reported that the Snowbirds have received 2 out of 3 quotes so far for an approved Snowmobile trail between Thompsonville and Interlochen, which is approximately 9 and 1/2 miles. This will have 6-8 inches of surface (probably 22A gravel) on the railroad grade. There

- will be a culvert put in the wet area. This was applied for with a snowmobile grant.

**VII. Adjourn.** Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:13 P.M.

**Next meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney  
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**

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