



**Friends of SMARTrails  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 21, 2024 (Corrected)  
Kaleva Community Center  
6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Rob Carson, president; Zachary Pawlowski, vice president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Mark Coe, Bonnie Brown.

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

**Guests:** Sara Herberger from MCCF, David Jarvi from Manistee County Planning.

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, president at 6:00 PM.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda after adding Social Media under Other Business. AIF. Motion carried.
  1. **July 15, 2024 Board Minutes**  
Motioned by Mark supported by Bonnie to accept the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
  2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:** No Treasurers Report this month.
- II. **New Business :** No New Business

**Old Business:**

1. **EDA Update**  
Rob reported that Scott Slavin informed him that there were 2 easements that were not identified, that they are researching. Hopefully we can break construction in the spring. Rob has got everything in order, pending the okay from the state.
2. **Report from Informational Meeting at the Snowbirds Club 10/10/24**  
Snowbirds meeting on 10/10/24. Linda and Zach attended and agreed that it was a very successful meeting with someone from the US Forest Service, Dept. of Natural Resources, Snowbirds, Dirtbirds, SMARTrails, County Commissioner Jeff Dontz, Manistee Tourism, County Planning and Maple Grove Township. Lots of various discussions on US Forest Service roads, special maintenance grants, questions on being a dual club with Snowbirds and Dirtbirds, and law enforcement.
3. **Reports from Different trail entities**  
**Snowbirds:** Mark Coe reported the snowmobile trail from Thompsonville to Interlochen

has been approved by the DNR. Mark attended a snowmobile start up meeting on September 17, 2024 in Cadillac. Snowbirds had their first meeting of the year in September. Landowner Dinner will be October 26, 2024 at the Snowbirds club.

**Dirtbirds:** Dirtbirds have identified 95 miles of roads in Manistee County. They have gotten access to ride on Red and High Bridge, and gotten support from the townships, and had many group rides.

**Onekama Trail:** Claire and Bonnie attended and there has been some opposition on parking and business development. There were approximately 200 people at the meeting, with 2 reps from MDOT. There will be another meeting this week.

#### 4. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails

Postponed until next month. Discussion on where to find all the information for the chart.

### III. Other Business

1. **Recreation Commission Update:** Linda reported on the 10/7/24 meeting. Mike Szokola began the meeting asking for a letter of support for a grant to Manistee County Community Foundation to provide additional lifejackets to the 7 stations in the County. Ric Alameddine received a MC Health Endowment grant for \$100,000.00 and plans on applying for a TAP grant. County Planning prepared a document "Rethinking Parking & Street Design in Rural Towns", a draft document which needs to be looked over and critiqued. Regarding the Kaleva Trailhead & Facility, County Planning is hoping to get a more detailed estimate of the construction and will move forward and apply for a trust fund grant.

#### 2. Social Media

Claire outlined what she would like to do with social media and the website. The rack cards went out during the Rusty Fish and an uptick of people visited the SMART website. Claire stated she would like to put on some pictures, and to welcome new people to explain SMART (2) E.D.A. update (3) Biographies of the SMART board. Also, write up how trails input your life.

#### 3. Registered Website Domain

Still have not found out who registered the Website Domain. Privacy was turned on and cannot get into it. Not sure when it will expire. Still researching and maybe check with Tamara or possibly Karen Kolk.

### IV. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Bonnie mentioned that Brian Allen, a semi retired Optometrist, would like to be involved. Bonnie will give Linda his information and he can attend our meetings.
2. **Jim Gribble:** Asked Rob for information on SMARTrails priorities. Rob will draft a letter to send to all stating what SMARTrails priority projects are. Rob will send out a copy to all of the Board.
3. It was suggested we have an updated list of members phone numbers, email addresses, etc. Linda will prepare and send one to all to finalize.

### V. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

**Next meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center. This was changed due to Veterans Day on November 11, 2024.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney, Secretary**