



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 13, 2025
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Mark Coe.

Board Members Absent: Rob Carson, Zachary Pawlowski, Elaine Gibbs, Bonnie Brown.

Guests: Wayne Beldo from Maple Grove Township.

- I. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Jacque Erdman, due to the absence of Rob Carson and Zachary Pawlowski.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda allowing the Annual Meeting to be first.
 1. **Current Membership** We need to seek a new member to replace Elaine Gibbs, who is not able to stay on as a member.
 2. **Reappoint Any Members.** Zachary Pawlowski and Linda Cudney need to be reappointed as vice chair and secretary for a 2 year term. Linda nominated Zachary Pawlowski as vice chair. Claire Richards supported it. No other nominations. AIF. Motion carried. Jacque Erdman nominated Linda Cudney as secretary. Dave Myers supported it. No other nominations. AIF. Motion carried.
 3. **Location of Regular Board Meetings and Dates.** Linda passed out a 2025 calendar with dates of meetings (the second Monday of each month except October meeting will be on the 3rd Monday and no November meeting scheduled). Location will be at the Kaleva Community Center at 9208 Kauko St. **Kaleva, Michigan.**
 4. **Budget For 2025 year.** Jacque will come up with some numbers and we will discuss this at the February meeting.
 5. **Fundraising for 2025.** Bring ideas up for February meeting.
 6. **IRS Form 1023 and Non Profit (990 Postcard).** Jacque stated that we do not have to do the IRS Form 1023, but just the State of Michigan Non Profit Form for Board of Directors, with a \$20.00 fee. Plus the 990 Postcard.

7. **Goals for 2025.** Mark Coe brought up some ideas which will be discussed under new business.

8. **Strategic Plan.** Do we need to go over?

A. December 9, 2025 Board meeting minutes.

Motioned by Claire, supported by Dave to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.

B. Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills: Jacque reported that the MCCF account has \$4,130.18, with \$16.20 as FCU share account, and \$8,058.33 in Filer Credit Union for a total of \$12,229.71. She also passed out a sheet of income and expenses as of 12/31/24. One bill for \$25.00 to Pro Web marketing, which she will send on to Rob or Zach for their signature. She will check with Filer Credit Union for signers on the SMART account. Linda motioned to accept the treasurers report and the payment of bills. Dave supported it. AIF.

III. New Business : Goals for 2025

1. Trail from Casino to Chief

Mark brought up the idea of possibly an opportunity for SMARTrails to work with the snowbirds for a trail from the chief grade to the casino (working from the casino backwards to Chief), plus a trail into Onekama. The tribe are in favor of snowmobiling, biking, hiking, etc. to their establishment. Possibly some things to think about are gaining tribal support, getting the County Recreation Commission on board, and getting the awareness out.

2. Summit for 2025-2026 (Fall Summit vs Spring Summit)?

Mark Coe offered the use of the Snowbirds Club in Kaleva for a location for a 2025-2026 Summit. Thank you Mark for the offer and we will keep it on the agenda. More discussions on this at later meetings.

3. Attend April County Recreation Commission

To present the idea for the Casino to Chief trail, as they will be doing some workshop sessions in the spring regarding goals, priority projects and objectives for the year.

IV. Old Business:

1. EDA Update

Rob reported that nothing is different from last month.

2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails

We will contact Sammy L. at the Visitors Bureau, for her help in this, for the overall map.

3. Reports from Other Trail Entities

Snowbirds & Dirtbirds: Mark reported that the new Snowmobile Trail maps are out (SMARTrails has a copy). It is winter and there is lots of snow for the snowmobilers. Dirtbirds are working on a ORV Pathway (Benzie/Wexford/Lake/Manistee Counties). Snowbirds Clubhouse is open every Saturday from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM for warming up or something to drink.

TARP: Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project: Linda talked to Chuck Kraus and there is a meeting January but Linda will be gone, so will be on the April agenda, as they only have quarterly meetings.

4. Progress on obtaining a banner, flag, tent, tablecloth, etc.

Postponed as Zack is absent.

V. Other Business

- 1. Recreation Commission Update:** Linda reported on the County Recreation Commission meeting and passed out a copy of the minutes out to all. David Jarvi updated the commission of the upcoming Kaleva Village meeting for the trailhead facility, but with the construction bid coming back higher than expected, things are on hold. The Lifejacket Station Replacement Grant has letters of support and each life jacket station will receive 35 new life jackets. Updated brochures were passed out "Trail Systems and Rural Towns and Communities" and Rethinking Parking and Street Design in Rural Towns". Meeting dates for 2025 were set. A note on the M-55 Shoulder Widening Project from Bob Schulke: "The shoulder will be widened another 4 feet from Udell Hills to the west and project will cover most of M-55 in the Wellston area."
- 2. Media**

Claire reported that her and Zack solved the mystery of the Website Domain. Claire worked on it and found that Jim Gribble was the host and Zach took it from there. Great job Claire and Zach. Clair also reported that she needs a Debit Card on file for Microsoft Non profit (it is free but needs a Debit Card on file).

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Linda reported that a Cleon Township Trustee attends Road Commission meetings and reported that Trout Unlimited is helping to fund (\$490,000.00) the rebuild of Lefew Road Bridge in Springdale Township.
2. National Trails Day is Saturday, June 7, 2025

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Next meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025, at the Kaleva Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney, Secretary
Friends of SMARTrails