



## **Friends of SMARTrails Board Meeting Minutes Monday, April 8, 2024 Kaleva Community Center 6:00 PM**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Bonnie Brown.

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, President at 6:06 PM.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
  1. **March 11, 2024 Board Minutes**  
Motioned by Jacque, supported by Zach to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
  2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**  
Jacque presented the Treasurers report, with the Community Foundation balance amount being \$4,035.82 and the Filer Credit Union account balance of \$8,134.58, and savings share of \$14.20. Pro Web Marketing bills for hosting the month ahead for \$25.00, plus the check for \$1,400.00 to Manistee County were the only bills. Linda motioned to approve the treasurers report and the payment of bills, Claire seconded. AIF Motion carried.
- II. **New Business :**
  - June 10, 2024 meeting of SMARTrails**  
Rob is a facilitator for the Manistee County Master Plan update, which will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024 at the Manistee Downtown Education Center at 400 River St., which is on the same night as our SMARTrails meeting. The last Master Plan for Manistee County was done in 2006. Invitations will be going out to many departments, townships, villages, housing, recreation, etc. Rob would like to see some of our SMARTrails members attending, to be a part of this meeting. This will be discussed further at our May meeting. There will also be a couple of pop-up dates at possibly Pleasanton and Maple Grove.
- III. **Old Business:**
  1. **EDA Update**  
Rob reported we are still waiting for the State of Michigan for the attorney general's signature. Curt VanderWall was contacted to see if he could follow up on this. When this is

complete, the EDA will need it for 3 weeks. Otherwise, things are in place to move on.

**2. Benzie Manistee Snowbirds**

Mark reported the Snowbirds had their last meeting until fall, and their end of season party will be Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the clubhouse with happy hour and dinner will be at 5:00 PM. Gates are closed and they are working on next seasons trail easements. Three of the locations will be for permanent easements.

**3. Benzie Manistee Dirtbirds**

The Dirtbirds have been busy contacting townships and have a put packets together for the various townships to review, showing where the proposed ORV routes will be for Manistee, Wexford and Benzie Counties. They will be requesting a spot on the Township agendas to discuss any additions or corrections. They will be asking for "Letters of Support".

**IV. Other Business**

**1. Recreation Commission Update:**

The Thompsonville to Chief RFP was approved by the Manistee County Commissioners. The DNR has not yet provided a MOU/agreement giving the Recreation Commission permission to apply for a grant, and they want to make sure they have confirmation before releasing the RFP. There was discussion on a Bicycle & Pedestrian Program through ATIIP, which has 2 different grants and they both can go towards planning, designing and construction active transportation networks and transportation spines. It was decided to have Katie Mehl check with the grant writer for the County and see if this is feasible as the timeline is Monday, June 17, 2024. Robert Schulke, from the Big Bear Sportsman's Club requested a "Park to Park" map, as they will be partnering with the Iron Fish Distillery on Kentucky Derby Day, Saturday, May 4, 2024.

**2. Summer Festivals**

List available.

**3.** Claire researched some non profit programs to help in promoting SMARTrails. She researched CANVA, a graphic design software, and Microsoft 365. There are no costs involved with either of these programs.

**4.** There was discussion on a group called MFO (Manistee Forest ORV), located out of Irons Michigan which is a club that serves all seasons for ORV's and snowmobiles.

**4.** Linda had received an article through Cleon Township that she shared on E bikes being allowed on state park trails. There was a survey out in March and it will be shared with the April 11, 2024 Michigan Natural Resources Commission meeting, and action at the May meeting. (this is for Class 1 E-bikes that are pedal assisted and can go up to 20 MPH).

**V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence**

**VI. Adjourn.** Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:17 P.M.

**Next meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney,  
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**