



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 13, 2024
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Linda Cudney, Secretary; Zachary Pawlowski, Vice President; Mark Coe, Dave Myers, Claire Richard.

Board Members Absent: Bonnie Brown, Rob Carson, Jacque Erdman, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Dyllan Walker from Shoreline Cycling Club, Ric Alameddine from Onekama Parks & Rec. via dial in.

Call to Order Meeting called to order by Zach Pawlowski, Vice President at 6:00 PM.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **April 8, 2024 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Claire, supported by Mark to accept the minutes from the April 8, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque was absent but dropped off the Treasurers report, with the Community Foundation balance amount being \$4,035.82 and the Filer Credit Union account balance of \$8,144.73, and savings share of \$14.60. Pro Web Marketing had 2 bills for a total of \$50.00 for hosting the website. Zach accepted the checks to get signatures from Rob, or to possibly add Zach to the account. The \$1,400.00 check was sent to Manistee County Planning for help in printing the Park to Park maps. Linda motioned to approve the treasurers report and the payment of bills, Claire seconded. AIF Motion carried.
- II. **New Business :**
 1. **Ric Alameddine, from Onekama Parks and Rec Commission/M-22 Walkway**
Ric reported that he has been working with Onekama Township and the Village of Onekama and has acquired \$15,000.00 for a feasibility study, plus a \$10,000.00 grant and another \$5,000.00 (for a total of \$30,000.00). He has collaborated with MDOT, Onekama Schools, Portage Lake Association, Manistee County Road Commission, Manistee County Recreation Commission and Manistee County Planning to name a few to share his project and gain experiences from the various entities. He would like to connect trails to/from the Onekama parks and then the fairgrounds. He would like a letter of support from SMART. Claire motioned to offer a letter of support, Linda seconded the motion. Discussion was to have Rob write the letter of support, as he has had experience with that. All in favor. Motion carried

2. Dyllan Walker, Shoreline Cycling Club

Dyllan reported on the Shoreline Cycling Club. They are a 501 C-3 and have a web page and are on Facebook. They plan various activities and work on various projects like building bike trails, grooming bike trails, bike safety, and promoting the 5 counties as a bicycle destination (Manistee, Benzie, Mason, Oceana, Lake Counties). They have a Board of 5 members. They worked with Reece Borlin of the USFS to do improvements at the Big M, on their mountain bike trail.

3. June 10, 2024 meeting of SMARTrails

Our June meeting will be cancelled for members to attend the Roundtable Community Discussion on the Manistee County Master Plan update, which will be held at the Manistee Downtown Education Center at 401 River St. Manistee. Rob will be a facilitator for Networks Northwest. Members planning on attending are Linda, Dave, Claire, Zach, Mark and Jacque.

III. Old Business:

1. EDA Update

Rob sent an update on the EDA grant. The AG's office has not signed off on the form as of yet. They requested a third party to be contracted to perform the Deed research and then submit that information to the AG office for signature. The DNR is securing a third party to perform the research currently. The biggest issue that would have caused a delay is what is referred to as the "bat window". This is the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Service to not perform any tree removal from April 15-October 15 in order to maintain any bat roosting trees for endangered bat species. The DNR, under Scott Slavin's direction, went into the project area immediately prior to April 15th and dropped any necessary trees within the project area boundary. This means construction can move forward once we have secured a firm via contract, and would not have to wait until after October 15th.

2. Benzie Manistee Snowbirds

Season ended March 31, 2024. Landowner gates are closed and locked. The Snowbirds are working on permanent trail easements and on a grant due July 1.

3. Benzie Manistee Dirtbirds

The Dirtbirds have been busy contacting Townships and have a put packets together for the various townships to review. They will be asking for "Letters of Support". The Manistee County Road Commission discussed having the individual Townships determine which roads they would allow the ORV's on.

IV. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update:

Rick Alameddine attended and gave background on his project and asking for letters of support on his M-22 Walkway Project.

Sally Trisch, from Dickson Township attended and wanted to make sure that they were informing the right entities regarding the updates to their Township parks.

Reports from the Dirtbirds stated they celebrated their one year anniversary which was celebrated by "crossing High Bridge", over the Manistee River, as they had a one day pass from Dickson Township.

Katie Mehl gave an update on the RFP release stating the DNR did not want it released until a MOU was in place. Katie will get with the Kaleva Village president to get on their agenda to approve the MOU.

2. Summer Festivals

List available.

V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Linda talked to Robert Schulke, from the Bear Creek Sportsman's Club. Iron Fish Distillery hosts a non profit each year for the Kentucky Derby. The Sportsman's Club did very well this year. SMARTrails may have to look into this further and possibly get on their agenda.

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

Next meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

June meeting cancelled for members to attend the Community Roundtable imput session at the West Shore Community building in Downtown Manistee.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

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

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