



**Friends of SMARTrails  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 11, 2024  
Kaleva Community Center  
6:00 PM**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Dave Myers, Elaine Gibbs.

**Guests:** Sara Herberger from Manistee County Community Foundation; Chuck Kraus from TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project) Wayne Beldo, Maple Grove Supervisor.

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, President at 6:05 PM.

**I. Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.

**1. February 12, 2024 Board Minutes**

Motioned by Mark, supported by Claire to accept the minutes from the February 12, 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 \$8,124.46. Just one bill presented to Pro Web for \$25.00. Linda motioned to approve the treasurers report, Bonnie seconded. AIF Motion carried.

Discussion on the \$1,400.00 check from Prince & Monton, PLC for a balance of unused retainer. Jacque will deposit the check and follow through with disbursing the check.

**II. New Business :**

**Chuck Kraus from TARP**

Chuck had some handouts and explained what is happening at TARP and explained their project timeline as of March 2024 (subject to change). They have received a 501-c-3 status and plans are for a pavilion, visitor's center, Thompsonville Junction Trailhead and campground improvements, along with a historic bell on site. The caboose will need to be moved, as it extends into the State ROW and the campground has not been registered with the state. Engineering and design is being done by Mansfield Land Use Consultants. TARP has raised some money through contributions, grants and foundations, along with Rotary Charities of Traverse City. They will be applying for a DNR Trust Fund grant. They meet quarterly, but have committee meetings more often. Meetings are not public meetings, but may be attended by public if requested.

### **III. Old Business:**

#### **1. EDA Update**

Rob reported the deed documents are still in the State of Michigan Attorney Generals office waiting for the attorney general's signature. The engineering, RFP, wetland soil and erosion permits are all in order waiting for the Attorney Generals office to review the deeds. Everything is on target waiting for the Attorney Generals office. The bridge fabrication will have to be built off site and will take 3-6 weeks).

#### **2. Reports from different trail entities**

Mark suggested we put this on the monthly agenda for any other trail entities that want to report to Friends of SMARTrails.

#### **3. Benzie Manistee Dirtbirds**

Mark reported on the Benzie Manistee Dirtbirds, an ORV club located in Kaleva. They are a sub committee of the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds and a non profit organization. They began in April of 2023 and have approximately 70 members, and they have met with various businesses and the next step will be to visit Townships and Villages for their support. They have mapped out approximately 140 miles in Manistee County and western Wexford County. Maps will be finalized soon.

### **IV. Other Business**

**1. Recreation Commission Update:** No meeting for lack of agenda items.

#### **2. Summer Festivals**

Looked over the summer festivals and added Arcadia Grit and Gravel, Saturday, May 18, 2024. Also added Chief Day date of October 12, 2024.

**3.** A project in the works will be an inventory of trails in Manistee County, which would list and include all the different trails (snowmobile, hiking, biking, water trail, backpacking, north country trail, Spirit of the Woods trail, Wellston Arboretum trail, Manistee River loop, etc).

**4.** Mark reported that he met with Matt Torreano, a "Lands and Easement Analyst" for the DNR and are working on permanent easements on 4 parcels for Trail #391 (Crystal Mt. Spur), along with easements on Trail #386 and #313. Another easement is the Johnson Road/Adamson Lake Road trail, which the Manistee County Road Commission owns.

**4.** Zack stated he received an email for a letter of support for Mason County Parks and Recreation, who are applying for a Trust Fund Grant.

**5.** Rob would like to do a presentation to the Manistee County Chapter of MTA, possibly at the annual dinner meeting in May, 2024. Linda will check and see if it is an option.

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

**1.** SMART talked with Wayne Beldo for a space to store our materials, such as a table, an easel, banner, cash box, shirts, hats, etc. Wayne will let us know by the April meeting if we can store it in Kaleva.

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

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

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by: **Linda Cudney, Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**