



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 13, 2023
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, President; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Zachary Pawlowski, Dave Myers, John Girven and Amy McKinley setting in for Mark Coe.

Board Members Absent: Claire Richard, Bonnie Brown, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Sara Herberger from Manistee County Community Foundation, Isha Pithwa from Networks Northwest.

I. Call to Order By President Rob Carson at 6:05 PM.

Rob introduced Isha Pithwa, Transportation Planner from Networks Northwest. She got her degree from Michigan State University in Urban and Regional Planning. Networks Northwest is hosting Community Engagement Sessions for public input on trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, trailheads, crosswalks, etc. They cover a 10 County Area (Manistee, Wexford, Antrim, Missaukee, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Charlevoix, Emmet). Tonight SMARTrails members will be doing a mapping exercise and insert areas of interest for these services. This input is for the development of the North Region Active Transportation Plan which will guide decision makers at the State and Local level when planning future improvements. Timeline is March 2023 to November 2024. There is a survey at bit.ly/NRATPSurvey or there is a QR Code which can be scanned.

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

1. September 14, 2023 Board Minutes/October 9, 2023 Meeting notes

Motioned by Jacque, supported by Dave to accept the minutes from the September 14, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried. Also attached were meeting notes from October 9, 2023.

2. Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills

Jacque presented the financial report with a balance on hand of \$7,115.00 of MCCF money, which will be used to purchase a new banner and tent, etc. Still have some time before we close it out. We have one invoice to Pro Web Marketing for \$25.00. Motioned by Linda, supported by Dave to accept the Treasurers report. AIF. Motion carried.

Jacque and Zach will meet at the Filer Credit Union to update the checking account signatures.

III. New Business :

1. Appointment of Bonnie Brown to SMART Board.

Motioned by Rob, supported by Zack to appoint Bonnie to our Friends of SMARTrails Board. AIF. Motion carried

2. Networks Northwest Community Engagement Session: (covered above)

3. Meeting dates for 2024

Meetings for 2024 will be the second Monday of each month, with the exception of November, which will be November 4, instead of November 11 (In observance of Veterans Day). Motioned by Rob, supported by Jacque for accepting the meeting dates of 2024. AIF. Motion carried. Linda suggested the meeting dates be sent to our website.

IV. Old Business:

1. Strategic Plan

Claire could not attend this meeting, but stated that she has completed the survey and will have deliverables by the December meeting.

2. EDA Update

Rob reported cost estimates for the final design from Gourdie Frasier are done and final application signed by DNR and submitted to EGLE for review. The bid documents will be going out next.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda reported on the Recreation Commission meeting. ORV Ordinance is map is final and ready on the Manistee County website. Meeting at the Kaleva Village park on November 21, 2023. Snowbirds are very busy in trail maintenance and cleanup. Mr Knoper, president of Dirtbirds club, updated the Recreation Commission on their newly created club.

2. Site Visit at for Kaleva Village Park Trailhead.

Manistee County Community Foundation, Members of Manistee County Recreation Commission, Village of Kaleva, and County Planning are meeting on November 21, 2023 at 12:00 Noon for a site visit for a potential trailhead at the Kaleva Village Park.

3. TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project) was recently awarded a \$346,200.00 grant to help build a trailhead and upgrade a campground in Thompsonville. It was issued through the MRDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation). Total project will be approximately \$800,000.00.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 6:59 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**