



Friends of SMARTrails
Annual Meeting/Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Bonnie Brown, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Sara Herberger from Manistee County Community Foundation, Dyllan Walker, Wayne Beldo.

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. **December 11, 2023 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Mark, supported by Dave to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque presented copies of the Treasurers report. She explained the balance sheet and Statement of Income and Expenses for the month and the combined statement for the 2023 year. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report, Dave seconded the motion. AIF. Motion carried. Rob made a motion to pay the bills, Linda seconded. AIF. There are 2 bills due this month. A bill from Jackpine for \$178.00 for new Rack Cards and the outstanding bill for 25.00 for the webhost.
- II. **New Business : Annual Meeting**
 1. Our current board of directors are Rob Carson, Jacque Erdman, Zachary Pawlowski, Linda Cudney, Claire Richard, Dave Myers, Mark Coe, Bonnie Brown, Elaine Gibbs.
 2. Reappointment of Jacque Erdman and Rob Carson to Board of Directors. Motion and support to reappoint Rob and Jacque to the Board.
 3. Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
Zach nominated Rob Carson for president, supported by Mark. No other nominees. AIF. Motion carried. Rob accepted.
Jacque nominated Linda Cudney for Secretary. Claire supported the motion. No other nominees. AIF. Motion carried. Linda accepted.
Linda nominated Zachary for Vice president. Mark supported the motion. No other nominees. AIF. Motion carried. Zach accepted.

Linda nominated Jacque for Treasurer. Dave supported the motion. No other nominees. AIF. Motion carried. Jacque accepted.

4. Location of regular board meetings and dates. We have a calendar of the dates (most are the second Monday of the month except for the month of November, which is Veterans Day). Wayne Beldo has graciously offered the use of the Community center in Kaleva for our meetings.
5. Budget for 2024. There was discussion of the budget for 2024. It was decided we need to raise \$5,000.00 plus \$7,500.00 (which was discussed at the December meeting) so set a goal to raise \$15,000.00.
6. Fundraising for 2024. Discussion on Public and/or Private Fundraising was discussed. It was decided to develop a list of contacts to target, plus being at the community events throughout the summer, plus possibly do presentations to various Townships.
7. File IRS Form 1023 and Non Profit report (990 N postcard). Jacque will take care of these. She will change the Board of Directors on the Michigan Department of Licensing report.
8. Goals for 2024. We will think about this and do a brainstorming session at the February meeting. We will think about projects and getting the word out for SMARTrails.
9. Strategic Plan. Claire updated the Strategic Plan for all to look over and check if any additions or corrections need to be added.

III. Old Business:

1. EDA Update

Rob reported the final engineering and design are complete. Permits have been gotten. The deed research is continuing (goes back 50 years) and will be waiting for the state attorney to sign off. Then there will be the engineering RFP's, construction estimates and construction firm hired.

IV. Other Business

1. **Recreation Commission Update:** Meeting is January 9, 2024 (tomorrow night).
2. **SMARTrails Presentations:** Zack presented the new rack cards and in discussion on presentations, it was motioned by Jacque, supported by Mark to look into purchasing a projector and screen for presentations. AIF. Motion carried.
3. **Letter of Support for Raise Grant for Proposed Betsie Valley Trail Improvements.** After much discussion, it was noted that the Manistee County Recreation Commission supports crushed limestone on our trails, not pavement. Also, our EDA grant calls for crushed limestone.
4. Linda received an email stating the Manistee County Community Foundation awarded \$39,925.00 to the Village of Kaleva, with collaboration with the Manistee County Recreation Commission, for planning and engineering for an ADA accessible restroom facility and gravel parking lot that will also serve as a trailhead.
5. Friends of SMARTrails will ask to be on the placed on the agenda for the County Recreation Commission at their February 5, 2024 meeting.

V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

Mark Coe stated that the DNR hired a land person for Lower Michigan, who lives in Grand Traverse County. This will help in getting easements for both snowmobile and hiking and biking trails. A suggestion would be to possibly invite him to one of our SMARTrails meetings. Snowbirds easements are from December 1-March31 of each year.

Dyllan Walker, from the Cycling Club stated they acquired a tow behind brush hog.

VI. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:21 P.M.

Next meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**