



August 12, 2021

The Friends group met this day at the Belding Depot at 600 PM.

Board Members Present: Lynn Mason (remotely), Ron Gunderson, Chad Farlee, Mark Grieves, Mark Fritsma and Wayne Addis.

Board Members Absent: Chairperson Robert Brown. Alan Teelander has submitted his resignation. It was moved by Mark F. and seconded by Mark G. to excuse Robert's absence. Motion carries 6-0.

Minutes: It was agreed to hold the July minutes until the next meeting due to technological issues.

Agenda: Add website to Old Business. Add Alan issue to Director Comments. Ron moved and Chad seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries 6-0

Treasurer Report: Chad reported the following:

All Bills are paid we are solvent
We Balance to the penny at 124393.72

We had an income of \$ 1360.72
1 Lifetime Memberships were sold
0 Yearly memberships were sold
1 Benches was sold

We had Expenses of \$ 4018.53
There were no bills to report. Lynn moved and Wayne seconded to approve the report.
Motion carried 6-0.

Authority Report: Ron reported that the new members on the Board are starting to understand the budget. Ron suggested to the Board that there be a tour of all three sections. This way they can see how different they all are. The authority approved an

additional \$10,000 for tree removal. They discussed a protectant on signs to help with graffiti.

Trail Expansion: Ron spoke with Jill at DNR. Where is Tom B. on issues? He hasn't gotten back with Ron. Apparently Tom told Robert that he needed \$300,000 to finish. A meeting between all parties was to take place. It did not happen. Discussion took place concerning sign off on completion. It was determined that there is confusion yet to be worked out. The repairs are up in the air.

It was mentioned that the Meijer \$\$\$ are intended for maintenance, not to pay Kent County back.

Some trail issues still to be completed are, corrections on signs, weeds, soft spots, etc.

Maintenance:

Weeds: Chad Thalen would take care of approx. \$100/mile.

Benches: 15 benches and pads are out. Sponsors and tributes are coming in. Currently, BHS Class of 1975, Mimi Simkins, Mcphersen Family, Bob and Karen Brown, Dave Austin. Three benches are still needed in the Ionia area.

Mileage: Chad created a mileage chart for the Grand River section, Thank You! We have received positive feedback on mileage charts.

Kiosks: We are thinking maps of the 125 miles could be placed in the Kiosks. Mark F. received info. from LARA for use in a kiosk at Foreman.

Brochures: Chad said we should have some in about two months.

Signs: We received signs that warn of hot asphalt. They look nice.

Fallen Trees: 40-50 came down in the wind. Wayne, Mark F. and Ron all worked on them.

Asphalt pile: pile is hard, it needs to be mixed up, there have been gate/locked issues. The pile belongs to the DNR, therefore we don't need to buy it.

Brush: Wayne and Ron have been checking trail from Greenville to Belding. There is lots of brush, we need to rent a chipper and plan a work day. It was moved by Chad and seconded by Mark F. to rent the chipper. Motion carries 6-0.

Events: Nothing new scheduled. YMCA has done an in-kind cleanup.

Public Comment: None

Unfinished Business: Alan Teelander was too busy and can't make the meetings so chose to step down.

Website: We are getting a new price from John Brown from JBMD Creations. Chad said the Metal Valley Lawn Care and Landscaping uses the same guy for their website. Chad moved and Wayne seconded to use JBMD for the website. We discussed whether ours should be similar to CIS and Heartland.

New Business: Some older kiosk sides are not holding up and need to be replaced with poly products.

Director Comments:

Wayne reminded us the Ron G. would be turning 70 soon!!! Happy Birthday Ron!
Mark F. shared that LARA has secured \$5.5 million dollars for their connection project through town.

The RR company has been sold and buyer wants another appraisal. RR needs to step up. The LARA section will now be completed in two phases. First phase would be Fairgrounds to Walgreens area. Second phase would be going east.

Wayne told us that there are lots of good comments when they work on the trail. Ron has done a ton and needs to be shown appreciation!! :)

Meeting adjourns @ 7:06. Moved by Wayne and seconded by Mark G. Motion carries.

Next meeting is September 9, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Mason.