



**Friends of the River Valley Rail Trail
Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting @ Belding Depot
6:00 PM May 11, 2023**

Call to Order: Chair Gunderson called the meeting together at 6:00.

Roll Call: Ron Gunderson, Lynn Mason, Mark Fritsma, Chad Farlee, Mark Grieves and Wayne Addis (arrived at 6:08)

Guests: None

Minutes: Move to approve the Jan 12, 2023 minutes made by Mark G. and seconded by Ron. Motion carried 5-0. No meetings took place in Feb., Mar., and April due to quorum issues.

Agenda: Move to approve the agenda as amended by Lynn and seconded by Mark F. Items added to Unfinished Business.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's Report: Chad reported that all bills are paid and we are solvent. We balance at 88,329.72. We had income of 10,811 and zero lifetime or yearly memberships sold. Expenses were 27,554.50.

Bills: Upcoming bills are as follows:

- Website \$500
- Trailer tires \$240
- Chains \$136
- Batteries 4 @ \$920
- Blades \$112
- Mitch contracted work payment \$16,000. He was previously given \$20,000 as a down payment for culvert work, ditching, and building a wall. Total projected cost of project was \$41,000

- Allen Tealander offered to mow the Foreman area saving us approximately \$1300-\$1800, it was agreed to give him \$\$ for blades totalling \$40.M
- Mileage \$1425.93 for 2177 miles @ 65.5
- Garbage bags
- Allen wrenches at Jackson's Landing
- Tire pump

Move to approve the Treasurer's report and bills, made by Lynn seconded by Wayne. Motion carried 6-0.

Authority Report:

- As of March 31, the grant making balance sheet reported \$3,366,576.59. \$200,000 was taken out for this year.
- All quarterly reports were approved.
- All Board positions are filled. There are none from St. Johns. The Board is at 7 down from 9.
- The CIS has been dealing with downed trees and woodchuck holes on the trail surface. No report on the trail surface upgrades.
- Heartland's new Chairperson is Mary Humm.
- There is talk about extending the CIS trail. A sub committee is looking into it.

Maintenance Report:

- Foreman area: some trees are out, pines placed and seeding done
- Fairground flooded. Ron cleaned up the area. Thank you!
- A bench for Betsy Davidson has been placed.
- Culvert work continues as a need.
- Hunt St. in Lowell needs No Motor Vehicle signs and boulders
- The asphalt on the bridge in Saranac has settled
- Beavers have made a new dam west of Lincoln Lake Rd. A grate has been made and fencing is possible in the future.
- Trees: Thanks to Ron and Wayne for taking care of the tree issues.
- There was a control burn south of Fletcher Rd.
- The Grant for the Greenville Area Foundation will be announced on Monday. \$4600 for seal coating was requested.
- Spraying issue has been discussed with Chad Thelan.
- Belding City had a drain line collapse at Congress St. Ron reminded the city that there must be written permission if there is a possibility of trail closure.

Unfinished Business:

- Left over dollars on the Belding issue will be used for parking at Long Lake Rd. We are waiting on an estimate and plan to use available crushed asphalt.
- Discussion on whether to place trash receptacles at all benches took place. Ron has been finding lots of trash and needles near several benches. They would need to be maintained every 2 weeks. The cost estimate is \$12,052. This included the trash cans, liners, brackets and hardware.
- Street signs are available to put up in the Belding area. This was to have been done during improvements. The cost is roughly \$720.
- Discussion of where the dollars would come from to deal with the trash and the signs took place. Incidentally, when these projects are done, all “to do” projects will be closed out.

A motion to approve both projects was made by Lynn and seconded by Wayne. The approximate cost would be \$13,000 for trash cans, liners, brackets, hardware and signage. The monies would come from Meijer Advancement, Dalmac line and General Donations. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment: None

Director Comments:

- Mark G. asked Mark F. about the LARA Trail. It is pretty much set to go with discussion about the connecting portion. Possible finish next year.
- Mark F. mentioned that the air pump at Saranac needs to be fixed.
- Mark F. asked for all of the 2022 minutes to be put on the website.
- Mark F. suggested that we publicly place on Facebook opportunities to ride/walk together on the trail. A chance to partner up.
- Ron reported that there is no schedule yet for brushing and mowing. Mowing typically has been done prior to holidays.
- Mark F. requested photos of all the benches for the website.

Next Meeting: June 8th, 2023

Adjournment: Mark F. moved to adjourn at 7:50. Wayne seconded. Motion carried 6-0.