



**Friends of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails
Minutes: May 12, 2022 @ Saranac Depot**

- I. Call to order by Chair Ron Gunderson @ 6:00 PM**
- II. Board Members Present: Ron Gunderson, Lynn Mason, Chad Farlee, Mark Fritsma, [Mark Grieves](#), Wayne Addis**
- III. Board Members Absent:**
- IV. Guests: Dean Gage (thank you for letting us into the building)**
- V. Approval of Minutes: Amendments made: add April 15 to Maint. Bullet 8, Delete 3rd sentence in last Maint. Bullet, Change "Authority" to Ionia Co in 2nd sentence in last bullet. Unders Dir. Reports, change Mark F. to Ron in the first bullet. Motion to approve as amended by Lynn seconded by Mark F. Motion carries 6-0.**
- VI. Approval of Agenda: Add a new event, add memberships under Old Business, add seal coating and crack filling under New Business. Mark F. moved to approve and Ron seconded. Motion carries 6-0**
- VII. Public Comment: Mr. Dean Gage said " Love using the trail"**
- VIII. Reports of Officers or Committees:**
 - A. Chairperson Report: None**
 - B. Treasurer's Report: Chad F. reported that all bills are paid and we are solvent. We balance at \$86,380.02. We had an income of \$10,000. Zero Lifetime Memberships sold and Zero Memberships were sold. We had expenses of \$34,523.07**

- 1. Bills: Mark F. moved to approve and Wayne seconded to reimburse Ron \$380.39 for bags, rakes, washers. Motion carried 6-0**

C. Authority Report: Ron reported that all three Friends Groups spending budgets for the 1st quarter were approved. All went well. Expenditures are all in line.

Heartland: \$12,395.75 CIS: \$11,600.00 River Valley: \$15,149.91

Discussion continued on whether to add Kent, Clinton, Montcalm and Gratiot Counties to the Board. It was agreed to add 3 new Board members representing the Heartland Trail. This will allow for representation from all counties and keep the Board at a reasonable size.

Bob Craig reported that there will be no money coming from the American Rescue Act for surface repair.

D. Maintenance Report:

- The last 4 benches were placed in Ionia today. The DNR says that they cannot be closer than 1 mile.**
- Scott weed whipped and completed chipping on the trail. He completed 38 miles, costing \$3115.**
- Ionia Co. Commissioner Ally Cook used volunteers and cleaned the trail from West Main to Thomas' near fairgrounds.**
- Traffic delineators have been placed near Dumon Rd. Ron made sure they were anchored.**
- A motion by Lynn and seconded by Mark G. was made to reimburse Ron for 4 gallons of Roundup. Motion carries 6-0**
- Mark G. will take care of backwater in the culvert north of 3 Mile Rd by digging it out.**
- The mile marker signs have been condensed to only one side of the trail.**
- When clearing trails, the rule is 8-10 feet on sides and 10 foot straight up.**
- A horse rider has been reported to be on the trail. We need pictures.**
- Class I & II e-bikes are allowed on the trail. The other e-bikes, that are not pedaled, can move up to 30 MPH and are not allowed on trails.**
- There is a need to notify Central Dispatch when we are working on the trails so that they are aware. People are calling in when they see appropriate work being done on the trails.**
- A bench had to be moved to the other side of the trail on Vergennes.**
- The slab at Dumon Rd. needs to be covered up.**

VIII. Upcoming Events: we have not yet received the paperwork from the YMCA who will hold an event in the fall. The Cow Pie Classic has turned in their paperwork. They will be having an event in June and July. They are using the east end of the trail. Pigster Bike will be entering the trail at the Rec area, mountain bike area, and then proceed to Ionia.

Discussion occurred on how to bill non-profit groups and for profit groups.

For Profit Groups: They will be charged \$200/event, plus \$1 for any participants over 200. It is understood that they will clean up the portion of the trail used.

It was moved by Lynn and seconded by Chad to approve. Motion carried.

Non-Profit Groups: It is understood that these groups will be billed \$100. \$50 of that will be counted with the after the event cleanup. Therefore the group will write a \$50 check, \$100 if they fail to clean up. Lynn moved and Mark G. seconded to approve. Motion carries 6-0.

Our plans for handling these fees must be sent to the DNR along with the group applications.

IX. Unfinished Business: Discussion of memberships continues. Chad and Lynn agreed to work on this on available Tuesdays.

X. New Business: Ron moved and Mark F. seconded to approve \$1367 to crack seal the following areas. Belding: Wells to Long Lake Rd. \$700. Vergennes to Foreman are OK. Dumon Rd. OK. Jackson Landing OK. Ionia \$357. Saranac \$315. Motion is approved 6-0

Mark G. moved and Mark F. seconded to approve seal coating at \$4,600/mile. The Belding section would be \$10,105. The Saranac section would be \$6,045. The funds would come from the surface improvements line along with using some of the \$12,628.09 carry over funds. The motion carried 6-0.

It was moved by Wayne seconded by Lynn to buy 4 move trash cans, 6 liners and 6 mounting kits for the Ionia area. The cost is \$2,000 and would come from general donations. The City workers have agreed to empty the trash. Motion carried 6-0.

XI. Public Comment: None

XII. Director Comments: Mark F. asked us to send him materials for the website.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:28. Next meeting is June 9, 2022 @ Saranac Depot.

Minutes submitted by Lynn Mason.