



**Friends of the River Valley Rail Trail  
Board Meeting Minutes July 13, 2023  
6:00 PM Belding Depot**

**Call to Order:** Chair Ron Gunderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Roll Call:** Ron Gunderson, Chad Farlee, Wayne Addis, Mark Fritsma and Lynn Mason.

**Member Absent:** Mark Grieves. Moved by Chad seconded by Mark F. to excuse Mark G. for work responsibilities. Motion carried.

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Lynn seconded by Wayne to approve. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Wayne seconded by Ron to approve. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports of Officers:**

Mark F. discussed the brochures. He is accumulating materials and needs more pictures.

**Treasurer Report:** Chad reported that all bills are paid and we are solvent. We balance at \$55,037.08. We had an income of \$9,844.00. 0 Lifetime or Yearly memberships were sold. We had expenses of \$31,179.16. The Dalmac and Meijer Advancement accounts have been closed. Chad completed the second quarter report to the Authority. We have a \$27,310.74 balance. Bills were \$27,792.20. We have received all of our grants for the year. Wayne moved and Mark F. seconded to approve. Motion carried.

**Authority:** Ron reported:

- Discussion concerning meeting structure. They will remain at meetings once a month.
- CSI Trail: Engineers are working on bridges, eventually they will need to be replaced, due to weight issues. Tension bars are being stolen on the fences. There continue to be trail surface issues. Construction perhaps next year.
- The budget process will begin next month. There needs to be a discussion about interest in the GRCF fund. Shall we leave a % of dollars each month?

**Maintenance Report:**

- Two signs have been stolen near M44 Bridge.
- Two 14 foot poles have been broken off at Cleveland St. and Ashley Ave. The cost to replace is \$80/ pole.
- Dog waste station was damaged at Jackson and RR Street.
- The bench at Prairie Creek has been moved to the west.
- Scott has been mowing and weed eating this week.
- Seal Coating will begin next week at Jackson's Landing, Foreman and Dumon Rd. Citizens must stay off of the trail. Total cost \$11,000.
- Trash receptacles have been ordered. Bases are currently being made.
- 4 Mile Road, trash has been taken care of (Mitch) and the No Dumping Sign placed.
- Beavers west of Lincoln Lake Rd. have once again blocked the culverts. A plan for a ramp is in the process.
- There is a trespass issue south of Belding. It is the City of Belding property. A road has been created. It has roughed up the trail and a culvert needs to be removed.
- A contractor's excavator has crossed the trail creating an issue. Discussion with the RR will continue.
- The recent storms have knocked down several trees this last week.
- Boulders have been placed with the exception of Long Lake Rd.
- The Long Lake Rd. parking area issue is on hold because grants may be available next year. Trees, stumps, culverts and parking could be included.
- We continue to have some trail surface issues. The materials used were deficient. Possible that grants may be available. Chip and seal and perhaps gravel will be needed.
- We have yet to receive grant dollars from the Greenville Foundation. Perhaps we will receive in 2-6 weeks.

**Events:** Nothing is currently coming up. In Ionia at Steele Street, red paint was used on the trail surface. The organizer of the Cow Pie Classic is responsible to paint over with black paint.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Director's Report:**

- Due to Chad's schedule he asked to move the meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of the month. It was moved by Lynn and seconded by Ron to approve. Motion carried.
- Mark F. reported that funding has increased for LARA. The pump still needs to be repaired in Saranac. He is still working on creek signs, however, the river signs have been placed. Do we need welcome signs at Communities?

**Adjournment:** Lynn moved and Wayne seconded to adjourn at 7:13. Motion carried. **The next meeting is scheduled for August 9th. Notice the new day of the week.**