



**Friends of the River Valley Rail Trail
Board Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2023
6:00 PM @ Belding Depot**

Call to Order: Chair Ron Gunderson called the meeting to order at 6:06.

Roll Call: Members present: Ron Gunderson, Lynn Mason, Mark Fritsma and Wayne Addis. Members absent: Mark Grieves and Chad Farlee. Lynn moved and Mark F. seconded to excuse their absence. Motion carried 4-0.

Guests: Gail and Don Renell

Minutes: Wayne moved and Lynn seconded to approve the July 15th minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda: Wayne moved and Lynn seconded to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Gail R. commented that we are doing a great job on the trail maintenance. Don R. said he thought it was the best trail around.

Officer Reports: Mark F. updated us on the brochures.

Treasurer Report: Chad F. was absent so Ron G. gave the report.

All bills are paid and we are solvent.

We balance at \$55,037.08.

We had income of \$9800.00. 0 lifetime or yearly memberships were sold.

We had expenses of \$31,179.16

The expenses: signage, green paint for posts, paint to cover writing in Ionia, the 2nd mowing, and air hose for the Saranac repair station.

Copies of the budget were shared.

Motion to approve the budget by Wayne, seconded by Mark F. Motion carried.

Bills: We are still waiting on the Greenville Foundation \$4,600. There were no bills.

Authority Report:

- Heartland requested a \$10,000 grant. It was approved.

- CIS discussion continues on extending the trail.
- The budget numbers are not yet ready.

Maintenance Report:

- Seal coating is done. Unfortunately someone walked in an area in Lowell.
- There is loose material on a hill in Smyrna. DNR will be contacted.
- Boulders are in place. Still need some in the Long Lake area.
- There will be a guard rail placed at Dumon Rd. There will possibly be a removable center section.. Wayne moved and Lynn seconded to approve this addition.
- Someone pushed debris near Foreman. Mitch will look at it.
- A No Dumping sign has been placed near 4 Mile.
- Punch list is nearly complete.
- Discussion on E Bikes continued. The class levels of these bikes will be discussed with Jill at the DNR.
- Trash receptacles have been ordered.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- A. Stolen tools at a bike repair station in Belding were discussed. Authority dollars can be used. Approximately \$250 cost for the tools. Ron suggested we use Dero FixIt Bike Stations for a possible price and stronger product. Lynn moved to replace the tools and Wayne seconded. The motion carried.
- B. East of Jackson St. in Ionia still has debris. The debris and trees are causing issues with maintenance. The cost to clean up is \$2,610. Authority dollars can be used. Lynn moved and Mark F. seconded to approve. Motion carried.
- C. DNR Grants: these grants can be used for trail surface, culvert repairs, trees too near the trail, stump grinding, and the ramp near Crooked Creek in Saranac. \$21,070 would be the submitted amount. This list will soon be submitted to the DNR. If it is approved by October, we could start drawing on it. Wayne moved to approve and Mark F. seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Director Reports:

- Wayne: he successfully rode 5 miles, as he recuperates. Yes!
 - Mark F. continued E Bike discussion as well as signage.
 - Ron: The trespassing issue south of Belding has been resolved on our side. It is on the City of Belding property. EGLE, Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, has said that there has been no disruption of the shoreline. The culverts have been removed and the City has not made any decisions as of yet.
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- Lowell Area Recreation Assoc. met recently.
 - * Email comments and questions have been submitted to the DNR.
 - * There are some easement issues yet to be resolved.
 - * Grant funding from M-DOT has been secured.
 - *Negotiations with the Railroad continue.

- **Ron reported that we must work on getting more board members.**
- **The Michigan Bike Path Riders Facebook page has been placed on our Facebook.**

Adjournment: Lynn moved and Ron seconded to adjourn at 7:15. Motion carried.