



**Friends of the River Valley Rail Trails  
Meeting Minutes September 10, 2025  
@ The Belding Depot 6:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order: Chair Ron called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.**
- II. Board Members Present: Ron Gunderson, Lynn Mason, Wayne Addis, Alan Teelander, and Mark Fritsma. Board Member Absent: Jennifer Mierendorf. It was moved by Lynn seconded by Ron to approve her absence. She is out of the country. Motion carried.**
- III. Guests: Don and Gail**
- IV. Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Wayne seconded by Alan to approve the August 13, 2025 minutes. Motion carried.**
- V. Approval of the Agenda: Add Gail Bradley under New Business. It was moved by Wayne seconded by Alan to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**
- VI. Public Comment: Gail added, "great work on the bridges.**
- VII. Officer Report:**
  - **Mark reported that his son is looking at the trail cam. Also, he is meeting with Cari Draft tomorrow to discuss tee shirts.**
  - **Alan has been beautifying the Foreman crossing. Well done and thank you.**

- Lynn added that Bruce, from the class of 1975, has spent some time maintaining their bench area. Lynn also sent the fundraiser letter to Jennifer for sending out.

**VIII. Chair Report:**

- Ron reported that he had a lengthy conversation with Jill @ DNR, in regard to grants. \$60,000 - \$80,000 is available until the end of the year. Jill will be spreading the grants around. If received, any grant monies would go to culverts and brushing.

**IX. Treasurer Report:** Jennifer is gone so no report. Mitch has been paid for trees and surface repair. The bills will wait until next month.

**X. Authority Report:** there was no August meeting. FYI, a letter of support for a grant for revival of an old train car in St. Johns was sent. No luck on the first try. They will try again.

**XI. Maintenance Report:**

- The second spraying is completed
- Mowing will take place soon.
- Lowell PD called about a trash issue at Foreman. Alan will help to keep it under control. Ron will supply the trash bags.
- Lots of trees were down.
- Ron helped to repair the west end of the bridge. There was a sinking issue.
- There is also a hole at Sessions Creek.
- The tree issue on personal property has been resolved. The cost was lower than expected, \$4,700.
- Ron's weed eater is in need of repair. Because we are a 501c3, Weingartz will give a 20% discount. \$98 off is helpful. Total cost \$392 plus a spool. Wayne moved and Lynn seconded to approve. Motion carried.
- Scott's bid for brushing has been reduced to \$1800/ day. It will probably take 20 days. Some stumps need to be removed first. Cost approximately \$36,000.

- XII. Events: the peaceful protest on the bridge in Ionia has received a yes from the DNR. Jill asked them for a heads up on the date.**
- XIII. Unfinished Business: None**
- XIV. New Business: Gail Bradley would like to become a Board Member. Wayne moved and Alan seconded to welcome and approve Gail to the Board. She will represent Kent County. Motion carried.**
- XV. Public Comment: None**
- XVI. Director Comments:**
- **Ron mentioned the parking lot at Jackson Landing.**
  - **Mark continues to work on the website**
  - **Discussion of emails for new Board members.**
  - **Kiosk at Jackson Landing needs basic info.**
  - **LARA update, hoped to be completed in 2027, a future plan may include White Pine towards Ada and Lowell, lease agreement for Elmdale section close, also Kent County has been a part of the discussion.**
- XVII. Adjournment: 6:45. The next meeting will be October 8th.**