



Friends of the Musketawa Trail Board Meeting

Thursday, August 1, 2024

7:00 p.m. Ravenna Village Office
12090 Crockery Creek Road



Millennium Trail 2000
National Recreation Trail 2008

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees: Tim Nink, Paul Boucon, Mark Fritsma, Gary De Kock, Diana Holovka, Greg Sherburn, George Czinder and Cari Draft
Absent: Oscar Reed and James Smith
Guests: John Morrison and Mark Bouchard

1. **Meeting called to order 7:02pm** : Tim Nink, president
2. **Secretary report - Cari Draft** : Meeting minutes from June 6 reviewed; Motion and second to approve as written. Unanimously approved.
3. **Treasurer report - Diana Holovka** : Diana reviewed her records for us. No questions; Motion & second to approve treasurer's report. Unanimously approved.
4. **Correspondence**
 - a. Emails: Tim noted one complaint of a golf cart on trail.
 - b. Mail correspondence: Diana reported no notable mail.
5. **Trail Manager Report from Muskegon County/Greg Sherburn**: Standard maintenance; will be lining up fall brush hogging services.
Report from **Kate Alvarez/Ottawa County** via email to Tim: more sinkholes repaired; cleared 60+ trees from trail since mid-May! Discussion/**action item**: many trail users have mentioned a specific crack/hole needing attention near Taft - perhaps crushed concrete? Tim will reach out to offer our volunteer labor on this specific area.
6. **Website** : The "RECAPTCHA" feature seemed to be glitching - works now. Diana reported the donor link has also been glitching; Tim will look into it.
7. **Current Expenditures/Reimbursement**: None noted.
8. **Brochure/trail map**: Tim has more packs of our trail brochures if anyone sees a need anywhere!
9. **PROJECT LIST - 2024 completed/current/future**
 - a.) **Completed 2024**:
 - i. The Broadway Trailhead Cleanup event coincided with Earth Month on the morning of Saturday, April 13 from 8am to 9:30am. We plan to make this an annual event.
 - ii. Tim & Sheri repainted the metal arts bike rack unit in Marne. (Bike racks in Ravenna and Muskegon were repainted in 2023.) Tim noted this typically last 3-4 years.
 - b.) **Current/existing 2024 and beyond**:
 - i. Gary and Linda are continuing "Open House Days" for the caboose & depot in Ravenna. Sat. June 1 garnered \$100 in donations and many compliments! Saturday, August 3 will be the next one, from 10am to 2pm again. Gary will set up the tent and bring water along with the keys to unlock the depot, and Tim and Paul have volunteered to help. Noted that Ravenna Historical Society put a new roof on the caboose!

c.) Future/longer term:

- i. Ed Holovka Memorial, to be located at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. The most updated "shortfall" needed for the project to move forward is \$12,500.
Jill Sell (DNR) recommends waiting until trail reconstruction happens to begin project. Also noted, more delays on trail reconstruction with more culvert replacements identified. Official reconstruction dates still unknown.
 - ii. Last bike repair station to go along with Ed Holovka Memorial in Muskegon (purchased)
 - iii. Other discussion: Cari presented her "Musketawa Farewell Cruise" event PLAN, leading up to the reconstruction. General consensus is good idea, promoting it as a family-style slow-roll type event, and the sections (or all!) of the trail are going to be closed for quite awhile. Plan will remain on "pause" until we know firm construction dates.
Example: if construction will be in Fall 2025, let's host this Farewell event at the end of Summer 2025.
 - iv. Tim & John collaborated on the idea of setting up a specific fund with West Michigan Trails for added amenities along the new construction; WMT takes 3% of gifts. Discussion and no immediate action taken, but in email correspondence on 8/9/24, Gary proposed "seeding" this fund. Motion was presented, seconded and approved by board majority to donate \$2000 to WMT to start the project. Updates at our October meeting.
 - v. YARD SIGN suggestion and discussion. These would be set up along the trail during construction and display QR code for current updates. We will laminate smaller versions for kiosks. Gary & John will meet to discuss signage options.
10. Fall 2023/Winter 2024 issue of Friends Newsletter is completed and went out a few weeks ago. Kudos to Tim & Diana for getting this done.
 11. Remaining Friends board meeting date for 2024: **10/3** (Thursday at 7PM in Ravenna)
 12. Diana will set up our annual dinner and email details.
 13. Trail rebuild update from Jill Sell/DNR given by Tim: Engineering is progressing, nearly all of Ottawa County trail section has been marked and investigated. Awaiting EGLE permit. Timeline has not been established and the MDOT TAP Grant appears to be the main funding source at this time.
 14. Paul's initial findings regarding the "**Corporate Transparency Act**" is that our group will not be affected by this in any way. Paul to complete analysis and provide formal response.
 16. **Motion to Adjourn** at 8:09pm, seconded and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Cari Draft, Secretary 9/11/24