



Friends of SMARTrails Board Meeting Minutes Monday, July 14, 2025 Kaleva Community Center 6:00 PM

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, President; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Dave Myers, Claire Richard. Zachary Pawlowski, Bonnie Brown., Mark Coe.

Board Members Absent: Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Aime Merizon, Sara Herberger.

- I. Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, president at 6:05 PM.
- II. Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 - 1. June 9, 2025 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Mark, supported by Zach to accept the minutes from the June 9, 2025 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 - 2. Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:**
Jacque reported that we have \$10,328.58 in our Bank account (which the MCCF amount of \$4,130.18 and Filer Credit Union amount is \$6,178.20 with \$20.20 in the Share Account). There are 2 bills that need to be paid: One to the Post Office for the PO Box for \$64.00 and a reimbursement to Mark Coe for \$66.75 for office supplies for the work on the flip chart. Linda motioned to accept the treasurers report and the payment of bills. Supported by Claire. AIF. Motion carried.
 - 3.** A thank you was suggested to be sent to Filer Credit Union. Linda will do a card and bring it to the next meeting for all to sign.
 - 4.** Jacque would like to get some pre printed forms at Jackpine. Motioned by Linda, supported by Zack. AIF.
- III. New Business :**
- IV. Old Business**
 - 1. EDA Update Awesome News**
Rob reported that Cadillac Fabrication is building the bridge and should be in by winter. Within the next few days, there will be a Pre Construction meeting with A'J's Excavating and Rob is hopeful the trail will be done by September, depending on A'J's schedule. Rob will inform SMART board members, when the project will be starting.
 - 2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails**

Mark has been working a little on it and showed us how he envisions it. It is a work in progress. When finished, it would be nice to be able to put it out on social media with a QR code.

3. Reports from other Trail Entities

The snowbirds will be shutting off the trail north, only to Empire. The snowmobile grant was submitted this past week to the state and will include Thompsonville to Interlochen. The Dirtbirds will be having a cookout on the Manistee River this coming weekend. Linda, Mark and Meg Batzer from the Manistee County Recreation Commission attended the groundbreaking ceremony at TARP on July 11, 2025. Very nice turnout and lots of influential people there.

4. Fundraising Ideas/Summit

Tabled, but keeping it on the radar.

5. Bullet Points List

Discussion on prioritizing items.

6. Tribal Discussion

This is something we will decide in the near future, and decide on the team players involved.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda and Claire reported on the County Recreation Commission meeting. County Planning is working on a survey to get out by August to catch summertime population to have input on the County Recreation Plan. They have set a timeline and hope to have it finalized by December 2026 and submit to the DNR via MIGrants in January/February 2027. Katie and Dave met with the Manistee County Road Commission to discuss portions of the trail along county roads. It was suggested to have the staff start working on a priorities/policy document. Ric Alameddine discussed his goals with his Onekama Trails Project.

2. Social Media

After our meeting this evening, we will get pictures of the board members and a group picture to put on social media. "Meet the SMARTrails Board".

3. Admin Technology

Claire will resend the link to all. Email is the password.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Linda reported that when she was at the Thompsonville Summerfest, that a lot of the non profits had little giveaways, and since we have money, we should think of what we could get to pass out at these events. Maybe bring some ideas to the August meeting.
2. Discussion on the Planning Department and the County Recreation Commission needing some guidance on what their priorities should be. Maybe have a joint meeting in the future, possibly in October?

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:28 PM.

Next meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025 in Kaleva at the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Club at 14121 Industrial Drive, Kaleva.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney, Secretary