



S M A R T r a i l s

EMBRACING COMMUNITY
WALK TRAILS

Friends of SMARTrails
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10, 2022

Kaleva Village Hall
9213 Aura Street, Kaleva, MI 49645
6:00 PM

Board Members Present: Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Rob Carson, President, Al Taylor, Karen Kolk, Elaine Gibbs.

Board Members Absent: Dave Myers, Mary Reed.

Others Present: Doug Barry, DNR Unit Supervisor for Orchard Beach State Park & Tippy Dam Recreation Area. Wayne Beldo, Chair, Manistee County Recreation Commission, Jim Gribble by phone.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Rob Carson, President.

II. Consent Agenda & Board Meeting Minutes

Motioned by Rob Carson, seconded by Elaine Gibbs to approve the minutes from December meeting as presented. All In Favor.

III. Correspondence Jacque handed out the article that was in the Manistee News Advocate on 12/28/21. She attended the County meeting representing Friends of SMARTrails.

IV. Public Comment

1. Jim Gribble who does the marketing, social media and web design for the Betsie Valley Trail called in by phone and gave an update of what he does for them and discussed his experience. He was sorry he could not attend tonight. We will put him on our email list for future meetings. He would like to get us up and running and possibly get someone to continue afterwards. He also created the website for TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project). He stayed on speaker phone through the meeting.
2. Doug Barry reported that the DNR is supporting the approval for fixing the

bridge over the Manistee River between Copemish and Mesick. There was also the question from the County Recreation Commission regarding the bridge over Bear Creek on Plagany Road. SMARTrails EDA grant has it covered but there was a question whether Springdale Township could apply for a Trust Fund Grant. Motioned by Al Taylor, supported by Elaine Gibbs to show support for Springdale Townships application to the DNR Trust Fund.

v. Old Business 1. Grant Opportunities Update

Rob reported that he has submitted the EDA grant and it is being processed for the connection of the Betsie Valley Trail to Copemish and bridge off Plagany Road. We should know if we have received this by our March

meeting. We also received the grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation for \$347,820.00 from the Minger Family Endowment Fund which provides the match needed for the EDA grant.

2. Insurance Update

Jacque Erdman submitted a list of questions to Stan Baca at Farmers Insurance, but has not heard back.

3. Legal Representation

Rob has checked and SMARTrails has a retainer of \$1,400.00 with the law firm of Prince and Monton .

4. SiBled Agreement with Tamara Buswinka

Tamara is on vacation but Rob will contact her about signing the agreement

for the Strategic Plan. If she is willing, we will schedule a meeting on January 27, 2022 at 1:00 o'clock for at least a 2 hour session workshop to a location to be determined. It was decided to see if we could use the Road Commission conference room if possible. Rob will check on it.

5. Contact List

Postpone for now. After the Strategic Plan, we may want to invite others to join.

VI. New Business 1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda reported on the County Recreation Commission. It was decided they were not at a place yet where they could submit a bid for the DNR Trust Fund. Meg Batzer, County Commissioner stated that possibly some of the ARPA funds could be used to hire a grant writer at the county.

2. Face Book Page Update

Al has not had any luck with this yet. Rob contacted Lisa Leedy and she was going to send Al a friend request, but Al suggested that she send him an email, as he gets lots offriend requests. Al suggested we need to have "Manistee" listed in the face book page.

3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

All the SMARTrails Board members have signed the Conflict of Interest Form except Mary Reed. She is probably not returning, so we will need a resignation from her. Al will check with Mary and let us know.

VII. Other Business

1. Thank you to Rob and Networks Northwest for the hard work and time that in took in working on and submitting the grant to EDA

VIII. Adjourn

Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 14, 2022 will be cancelled.

Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Manistee County Road Commission building.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney

Secretary

Friends of SMARTrails

Rob Check with Tamara to sign agreement and meet for Strategic Plan
Check on domain (.com or .org)

Al Check with Mary Reed to see if she will still be on the committee

Check with Lisa Leedy about the face book page as adminis&ator

