



**Friends of SMARTrails  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 8, 2025  
Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Club  
6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Zachary Pawlowski, Vice Chair; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Bonnie Brown.

**Board Members Absent:** Mark Coe, Rob Carson..

**Guests:** Sara Herberger.

- I. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Zach Pawlowski, vice-president at 6:01 PM.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda, by stating the next meeting date is October 20, 2025. AIF. Motion carried.
  1. **August 4, 2025 Board Minutes**  
Motioned by Claire, supported by Jacque to accept the minutes from the August 4, 2025 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
  2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:**  
Jacque furnished Treasurers reports for July and August. Our balance is \$10,188.48 of which \$4,261.44 is in the MCCF account, \$5,906.02 in the Filer Credit Union account and \$21.00 in the FCU Share account. No bills this month. Motioned by Linda, supported by Bonnie to accept the Treasurers report. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business :**
  1. **Initial Start of the Trail 9/9/25**  
Rob informed us that AJ's was starting work on the trail on 9/9/25. As a group we are wondering if we should be doing something to promote the trail building. Zach will get with Rob and see what we can do. Linda knows Sandy Gionet, who works for AJ's and she will contact her for information. Also ask if they have a drone. It was the consensus of the group that we should be somehow promoting this, with a press release, pictures, etc.
  2. **Clean up on the Chief Trail**  
Zach, Jacque, Rob, Dave and Mark worked on the Chief trail clean up. There is an "autumn olive" problem on the trail with the bushes infringing on the trail. Wondering if there are grants for Invasive species like Autumn Olive. Possible get with the DNR or the Conservation District, or possibly write a grant. Also, where the gates are, people are driving around them, so possibly some giant boulders would keep people off the trails with vehicles and side by sides.
  3. **Set up 2 days a year for Clean up of the trails.**

Possibly May (spring) and September (Fall). Motioned and supported to set the dates of Saturday, May 16, 2026 and Saturday, September 12, 2026 as designated clean up the trails day from 9:00 AM to Noon. The two trails will be the Chief Grade Trail and the Copemish to Thompsonville Trail. It was suggested to have 2 groups if there are enough volunteers to help out.

#### **IV. Old Business**

**1. EDA Update See above**

**2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails**

Tabled for this month.

**3. Reports from other Trail Entities**

Tabled for this month.

**4. Fundraising Ideas/Summit**

Tabled, but not forgotten. (Couple of things on the radar to check out for fundraising).

**5. Bullet Points List**

Will look at again at October meeting.

**6. Tribal Discussion**

This is in the radar to happen soon.

**7. Branded items**

This would be a good way of marketing or advertising SMART. It would be a nice marketing tool at events when people stop at your table(i.e. koozies, key chains, rulers, cups, balls, pens, post its, pads, stickers, which would have the SMART logo on them. Bring back ideas in October.

#### **V. Other Business**

**1. Recreation Commission Update**

Nothing to report. No meeting in September due to lack of agenda items.

**2. Social Media**

Nothing at this time.

**3. Admin Technology**

Work in process.

#### **VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence**

**1. Ric Almadine and the Onekama Trail**

Ric sent some papers for the Onekama Preliminary Trail Routes and was planning on attending our meeting tonight.

#### **VII. Adjourn.** Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:10 PM.

**Next meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025 in Kaleva at the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Club at 14121 Industrial Drive, Kaleva. There will not be a November meeting.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney, Secretary**