



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Club
6:00 PM**

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

Board Members Absent: Mark Coe, Rob Carson, Dave Myers.

Guests: Katie Gruenberg

- I. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Zach Pawlowski, vice-president at 6:04 PM.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **September 8, 2025 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Claire, supported by Jacque to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2025 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:**
Jacque furnished Treasurers reports through October 20, 2025, plus YTD. She also furnished a list of Transactions by Account and explained the balances. MCCF account shows \$4,261.46, Filer Credit Union Account shows \$5,886.26 and FCU share account balance is \$21.40. Jackie will check with MCCF for a statement from them. Total balance is \$10,178.87. Only payment was \$20.00 to the State of Michigan for the Annual Report, which was done September 25, 2025. Motioned by Linda, supported by Claire to accept the Treasurers report. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Adding SMART to the Temporary sign at the beginning of the trail in Copemish**
Linda contacted AJ's excavating and they referred her to Shane Gamrat at Gourdie Frasier. He stated that the sign was a temporary sign which needed to list the major players through the Dept. of Commerce. When asked if we could put a tack on a horizontal SMART sign under the sign, and or possibly yard sign format sign, he said it was fine. When the permanent sign gets put up, all the players will be listed at that time. It was the consensus of the group that we have Zach look into a horizontal sign with SMARTrails and a QR code on it for the big sign and looking into getting a few of the smaller yard format signs. Motioned by Jacque, seconded by Linda to allow him a budget of up to \$2,000.00 to purchase these

and let us know when they are done and we can put them up. AIF Motion carried.

2. **Katie Gruenberg** reported that they met with the Road Commission on the Kaleva to Chief trail and had questions on the part not on the railroad bed. She was stating that possibly a feasibility study should be done, with questions on the road shoulders and if acceptable to put signs.

IV. Old Business

1. EDA Update

Rob was gone, but Linda talked to AJ's and he said they should be done around Thanksgiving. They were already up to the bridge over the Dutchmen Creek with gravel and crushed limestone, and was waiting on the bridge over Bear Creek. Then talked to Shane Gamrat at Gourdie Frasier and he said the sign was temporary and will be taken down when a permanent one is put up and a ribbon cutting can be done.

2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails

Tabled for this month.

3. Reports from other Trail Entities

Mark was absent but sent a report for the Snowbirds. Zach reported that the new barn on the non motorized trail off M-55 was up.

4. Fundraising Ideas/Summit

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

5. Bullet Points List

Went over the Bullet points list and will keep it and add to it as we think of something else.

6. Tribal Discussion

Claire will check with Mark or Rob on this to see where we are.

7. Branded items

We looked over a list of branding items and decided on looking at Koozies, Stickers, Pens, Magnets and Key Rings. It was suggested to check with local places like Jack Pine and Sports Ink in Manistee first. Zach will check into this.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda and Katie reported on the County Recreation Commission. Highlights were County wide Recreation Plan has 3 more input sessions left. Lots of good discussion on the first public session. The Recreation Commission was comfortable with adopting the "Priorities, Policies and Procedures". David Jarvi accepted another position away from Manistee so was his last meeting. The ORV ordinance was discussed and possibly could go to the County Commissioners at the December meeting.

2. Social Media

We need to work on a press release and worked on getting a list together of people to invite when we decide to do a ribbon cutting. A list was put together, but if anyone thinks of others, to let Claire and Zach know.

3. Admin Technology

Work in progress.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Jacque had asked for an address a few weeks ago and Linda had a list of email and phone numbers of the SMART board members, but no addresses, so will put addresses on the list

- for next meeting to have everyone check over.
2. All who attended signed a card for Rob Carson, who recently lost his mother.

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

Next meeting on Monday, December 8, 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