



**Friends of SMARTrails  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 8, 2023  
Kaleva Community Center  
6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Rob Carson, President; Karen Kolk, Vice-president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Mark Coe, Zachary Pawlowski, Dave Myers.

**Board Members Absent:** Elaine Gibbs, Claire Richard.

**Guests:** Jan Myers, Wayne Beldo

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Rob Carson, president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.

1. **April 10, 2023 Board Minutes**

Motioned by Dave Myers, supported by Mark Coe to accept the minutes from the April 10, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.

2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**

Jacque Erdman presented the financial report. It shows we still have \$8,239.16 in the Manistee County Community Foundation account. We will need to close this account out. One bill this month to Pro Web Marketing for \$25.00. Jacque is working on getting this as an auto pay, so a check will not have to be written each month. Jacque is still working on the \$34.58 discrepancy in paypal. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Zach seconded it. AIF.

- III. **New Business :**

1. **Trail Maintenance**

Mark Coe asked about maintenance of the trails in the summer months, as the Snowbirds do the winter maintenance. The Snowbirds do maintenance a month before and a month after snowmobile season, so leaves a few months open. It was discussed about having a policy or MOU for the summer maintenance between the Snowbirds and SMARTrails. Rob will check with Scott Slavin to see if this needs to be cleared with the state. Dave Myers stated that he is ready to help out and just needs some direction. It was suggested to have Mark Coe get ahold of Dave for summer maintenance. If it was a serious or major repair, the DNR should be contacted first.

2. **Chief Trailhead**

There was discussion on the Chief Trailhead. The grant was submitted and on file with the Minger Foundation, but will need engineered drawings. May have to talk to Scott Slavin

with the DNR regarding this project.

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

##### **1. Update of Website**

Zach reported the website is a work in progress. He has updated pictures of the Board of Directors of SMARTrails. Still have issues with Google.

##### **2. EDA Update**

Rob met with the engineering firm and the RFP's were done. The proper posting was done. The RFP was presented to EDA to approve the engineering firm (Gourdie Fraser). Interviewing was May 1, 2023 with Scott Slavin and Rob Carson. Drafted with minor changes and the EDA has adjusted the timeline. The Trail will likely not be built this year. Permits need to be issued and to secure the building of the bridge, and you cannot construct the trail in the winter, as snowmobiles are using it. It looks like it will be a go May 1, 2024 for sure.

##### **3. Strategic Plan Update**

The marketing committee met and worked on the Strategic Plan some more and worked on the wording of the "Trail Segment Description and Improvement Need" to shorten up the paragraphs on that. Claire is working on it and hopes to have it done to go over at the next meeting.

##### **4. Summer Festivals**

The group went over the summer festival dates. It was decided to hold the National Trails Day event at Northern Naturals again this year. Jacque is contacting Northern Naturals. Linda will help after their clean up day at Cleon. Jacque contacted Spirit of the Woods for a booth there also. Because of so many dates, it will not be possible to attend all of them so went through the most important ones.

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

##### **1. Recreation Commission Update**

Linda and Wayne Beldo reported on the Recreation Commission meeting. Items discussed were the Parks and Recreation Manager was dependent on the outcome of the City Of Manistee meeting as County Planning is doing the zoning and if they decide to do it inhouse, then it will free up some time for someone in the planning department; also the County ORV map still has a few villages and Townships that have not responded; and there will be another meeting at the Kaleva Community Center on May 26, 2023 to discuss the removal of Tippy Dam and Hodenpyle Dam to the attention of Senator Hoytenga.

##### **2. Marketing Committee Update**

Linda, Zach, Claire and Jacque met on Thursday, March 23, 2023 and worked on the revisions to the Strategic Plan, went thru the festival dates for 2023, Claire worked on a survey for our quarterly newsletter and to hand out at summer festivals, checking with the County Rec Commission to see if they want to put something in the newsletter, checking on a better tri-fold board to put the Park to Park map on and make it easier to read, along with the trail segment description. Also, Zach was looking at routes for National Trails Day and Linda was contacting Charles Kraus to see if they would like to be part of the event for National Trails day, along with the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, if we do the event in Thompsonville.

#### **VI. Comments/Correspondence**

- 1. E-Bikes** were discussed regarding riding on hiking and biking trails. There are state regulations, but how are they enforced for the different E bikes. Possibly the County Recreation Commission can look into it.

**2. Discussion on changing meeting dates**

Mondays will still work for all, so the meetings will stay on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

**VII. Adjourn.** Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

**Next meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney**  
**Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails**

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