



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 9, 2024
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, president; Zachary Pawlowski, vice president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Bonnie Brown.

Board Members Absent: Jacque Erdman, Elaine Gibbs, Mark Coe.

Guests: Sara Herberger from MCCF, Wayne Beldo from Maple Grove Township.

- I. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, president at 6:00 PM.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda after changing the following: adding 3. New Business "Technology Update". And change Other Business #2 to just "Media. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **October 21, 2024 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Claire, supported by Zach to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried. No November meeting, due to lack of a quorum.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:** Postponed, as Treasurer is absent.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Another member of SMARTrails.**
Bonnie has a person in mind and will get with him. Otherwise, if members know of anyone who may be interested in joining SMART, let us know.
 2. **Meeting dates for 2025**
A calendar was passed out for 2025 SMART meetings. Every month except October and November will be on the second Monday of the month. October meeting will be the 3rd Monday (October 20, 2025) and meeting will be cancelled for November 2025. Motioned by Claire, supported Zach to adopt the 2025 dates for SMART. AIF. Motion carried.
 3. **Technology Update**
Claire informed us that Microsoft has expired and she is working on sharing of programs. She will need credit card information on file for billing. "Google Non Profit Suite" can have up to 10 users. Still trying to verify the domain, possible Go Daddy, to show who purchased it. Looks like the domain will expire 3/18/25. Maybe Jacque can check to see if a check was written for the domain.
- IV. **Old Business:**

1. EDA Update

Rob reported that deed and title work has been done in the EDA Review which needed 3 corrections. Survey sheets entered into GIS, utility corridors need to be submitted, links to actual deeds. We can move forward toward bidding, construction and engineering of the trail and the bridge will have to be bid out also. We will need an RFP (30 days), approximately 2 weeks to interview, and contracts for early 2025. Rob did file an extension in case we needed it.

2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails

Postponed until next month. It was suggested to contact Sammy L. at the Visitors Bureau, to help in this, for the overall map. Possibly invite her to a SMART meeting or contact her.

3. Reports from Other Trail Entities

Claire reported on the Cycle Club. Linda reported on the Dirtbirds (done for the year) and working on 2025. Snowbirds season is here. Clubhouse is open every Saturday from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM for warming up or something to drink. Bonnie reported on the Onekama Plan. The "Rail Relocation Plan" is ongoing with a feasibility grant. Claire is considering going to a Manistee Township meeting. Linda is going to see when the next TARP meeting is and attend if possible. Linda reported that Cleon Township and the Village of Copenish received a letter from MDOT regarding the M-115 trail project, which has been delayed a year with construction in 2028.

4. Progress on obtaining a banner, flag, tent, tablecloth, etc.

Zach presented a couple of bids for tent, roof, stakes, table cover, etc. Motioned by Claire to purchase from Tent Craft for \$3,157.10 minus the sale tax of 187.56 for a total of \$2,969.54. Supported by Bonnie. AIF. Motion carried.

V. Other Business

- 1. Recreation Commission Update:** Linda reported on the County Recreation Commission meeting and passed out a copy of the minutes out to all. Scott Slavin was available through a phone conversation and was questioned about abandoning the forest road portions along the Kaleva-Thompsonville trail, the trail south of Kaleva, among other questions. Mr Slavin advised the Recreation Commission to look at the full trail segment and start with design and engineering, so the DNR can better understand the cost. Could break up the segments into phases. He also stated that the top priority with the DNR is fix high use, improved trail segments with failing infrastructure. He would like to see Community Support for these trails.

Also discussed were the flyers "Trail Systems and Rural Towns and Communities" and "Rethinking Parking & Street Design in Rural Towns". Linda passed out and suggested using some of the brochure created awhile back with SMARTrails and the Manistee County Recreation Commission.

Meeting dates for 2025 were discussed and a work session was discussed at an upcoming meeting to discuss future goals.

2. Media

Claire would like to send an end of the year newsletter out, after Christmas. There was also discussion on sending resolutions from Manistee County Townships to the DNR, local, federal and state levels stating there was Community Support and the priority of trails in Manistee County. A "Trail Summit" should be in order after our EDA trail is completed.

3. Annual Meeting January 13, 2025

Linda will send a copy of the bylaws out before the meeting to look over.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Linda passed out a list of updated phone numbers and email address of SMART board members to check over.

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Next meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, at the Kaleva Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney, Secretary
Friends of SMARTrails**

DRAFT