



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 10, 2025
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, President; Zachary Pawlowski, Vice President; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Dave Myers, Claire Richard, Mark Coe.

Board Members Absent: Bonnie Brown, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: None

Call to Order Meeting called to order by Rob Carson, president at 6:08 PM.

- I. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda after adding Letter of Support for TAP Application under New Business. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **January 10, 2025 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Claire, supported by Jacque to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2025 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:** Total money in the account is \$9,829.28, with MCCF money \$4,130.18, FCU Share Account \$16.20 and Filer Credit Union Account \$5,682.90. Web Hosting will be \$20.00 a month, but SMARTrails has control now of the website.
- II. **New Business :**
 1. **Budget for 2025**
Jacque reported we have not spent much, but if do some type of Summit, there will be some marketing expenses, and printing. Also, Zach has purchased the tent, stakes, bags, dolly and tablecloth, which came to \$2,375.60.
 2. **Present idea of Trail from Casino to Chief to County Rec Commission**
Discussion on this to possibly present to County Recreation Commission in the spring.
 3. **Fundraising Ideas**
If we can get the trail from Thompsonville to Copemish, and advertise it, the time will be great for fundraising. Tabled for another month.
 4. **Letter of Support for TAP Application for US-31 Corridor (Manistee Township, Filer Township, City of Manistee).** Zach motioned to have Rob send a Letter of Support to MDOT, for the TAP grant; supported by Claire. AIF. Motion carried.

III. **Old Business**

1. EDA Update

Rob stated everything is turned over to attorneys, who are going over everything. Rob had sent the deeds and they requested to have a cover map connected to the deeds. Hopefully the bids can be released this spring. The Summit would be a good time after the construction of the trail and the bridge over Bear Creek.

2. Trail Flip Chart of Manistee County Trails

We will need data from the County, which Rob will work on.

3. Reports from other Trail Entities

Claire reported that **Shoreline Cycling Club** is submitting a grant to cover grooming equipment to replace the aging equipment and also a shed to house the equipment. They plan to apply to MCCF for a Minger Grant.

Mark reported on the **Benzie Manistee Snowbirds**, stating there is a lot of snow and lots of grooming. There has been some cleaning and clearing of branches and trees from the wind. They are grooming approximately 162 miles of trail. Every Saturday during January and February the Snowbirds Clubhouse is open from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, for people to stop and have a hot beverage and visit. The snowbirds have installed "Groomer Tracker GPS" on all 4 groomers, which will show green, yellow and red lines to show when the trails were groomed. You can sign up for \$10.00 and \$5.00 will go to the club.

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

Zach purchased the tent, stakes, bag, dolly and tablecloth for a total of \$2,375.60.

IV. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda reported there was no January meeting, due to the weather, but David Jarvi sent an update on the Lifejacket grant and the Kaleva Trailhead Facility (with the new cost of the project to exceed \$1 million. Due to this, they will not pursue the DNR Trust Grant for spring 2025, because of the funding gap). The March meeting will be a brain storming session.

2. Social Media

Discussion on planning ahead on who to reach out to besides the website and Facebook, to let people know when SMARTrails does an event. Suggestions were Newspapers (News Advocate and Benzie Record Patriot), Township Newsletters, Freshwater Reporter, Interlochen Public Radio, etc.

3. Summit Goal

Early fall would be a good time, especially if the trail from T^ville to Copemish is completed and the bridge over Bear Creek. Mark Coe generously offered the use of the Snowbirds Clubhouse in Kaleva for a location. We will need to work on an invitation list.

4. Trail from Casino to Chief /Chief west to the Casino

It was decided that if we decide to pursue this, we should contact the tribe and request a meeting for input. This will be a future discussion.

V. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

1. Doug Barry is retiring from the DNR the end of February and wanted to remind all of the "Friends and Volunteer Summit" is happening this year on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the RAM center, in Roscommon, Michigan. Need to register at MI DNR.

2. MDOT plans to rebuild a stretch of US-31 in the year 2027 which will be including sidewalks, corridor improvements and pedestrian crossings. Rob and Mark attended along with Katie and Dave from Manistee County Planning, Laura and Sarah from the Manistee County Community Foundation and Steve Parsons, from Little River, plus others. The City of Manistee may have the opportunity to implement a Complete Street approach.

VI. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:32 PM.

Next meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney, Secretary
Friends of SMARTrails**

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