



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 14, 2023
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Elaine Gibbs; Zachary Pawlowski, Dave Myers, Claire Richard.

Board Members Absent: Karen Kolk, Jacque Erdman, Mark Coe.

Guests: Jan Myers, Sara Herberger, Wayne Beldo

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Rob Carson, president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **July 10, 2023 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Claire Richard, supported by Zachary Pawlowski to accept the minutes from the July 14, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
We will forgo the Treasurers Report and payment of bills this month, as Jacque is gone with her husband, who is under medical care.
Last month we talked about a purchasing policy and Linda researched and found a couple and will make up a short policy by the next meeting, if that is okay with all. It was the consensus of all to have Linda make a short purchasing policy.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Report on Staging Area/Trailhead at Copemish**
Linda Cudney and Dave Myers from Cleon Township, Elaine Gibbs and Shannon Saunders from the Village of Copemish, Rob Carson, from Networks Northwest, Scott Slavin from the DNR and Joseph Williams and Shane Gamrat from Gourdie Frasier and Associates met on Friday, July 29, 2023 in the Village of Copemish to discuss the trailhead in Copemish. It was decided on the suggestion by Scott Slavin to put it off of Front Street almost across from the Village park, where there will be water, bathrooms, etc. There was some discussion of a trail/road/shortcut from M-115 into the Village, but in checking with the Township Assessor, and Equalization, there was a correction in the tax maps and description to show that the whole trail is owned by the DNR.
- IV. **Old Business**
 1. **Update of Website** It was suggested to remove this from the agenda in the future.

2. EDA Update

Rob reported that the survey has been done. The preliminary bids for the bridge over Bear Creek came in considerably lower than originally thought. Working on permits to be done and construction bids to come in. The bridge will be built off site and hauled in.

3. Strategic Plan Update

Should have a copy by next meeting and then will remove from the agenda.

4. Summer Festivals

Linda was at the Kaleva Days 5K and had a booth for Copemish Heritage Days. The “Big Bear Butt Cruise” is coming up August 26, and Linda will be gone, but Claire volunteered to step in. Linda will email Robert Schuelke and CC Claire so she will know what can be done.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Katie Mehl and Sara Herberger asked the Recreation Commission to establish their plans for the Chief and Kaleva trailheads. With this, they can start applying for the Minger grant which can help with engineering studies, as the deadline for the Minger grant is October 2, 2023. From there a grant can be applied for from the State. There was discussion to include the whole trail from Thompsonville to Kaleva.

There is a vacancy on the Recreation Commission to replace Mr Dunlop. It was posted by the County Administrators office.

Meg Batzer updated the Recreation Commission on the work that was done after the diesel spill in Lake Michigan.

2. Marketing Committee Update

Did not meet.

3. Other discussion include the US Forest Service and keeping them informed and possibly focus on Big M improvements and also support for more loop backpacking trails on USFS lands.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

Rob Carson has a conflict on September 11, 2023 so it was motioned and supported to move our next SMARTrails meeting to Thursday, September 14, 2023.

VII. Adjourn. Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:13 P.M.

Next meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails