



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026
Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Club
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, Chair; Zachary Pawlowski, Vice Chair; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Dave Myers.

Board Members Absent: Claire Richard, Mark Coe, Bonnie Brown

Guests: Robert Schulke, Manistee County Rec Commission; Sara Herberger, MCCF

- I. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Rob Carson at 6:03 PM.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **July 13, 2026 Board Minutes:**
Motioned by Jacque, supported by Zach to accept the minutes from the July 13, 2026 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills:**
Jacque furnished the Treasurers report. MCCF account shows total balance of \$4,557.62, Filer Credit Union Account shows \$4,133.70 and FCU share account balance is \$25.00. Total balance is \$8,716.32. The hosting charge automatically comes out monthly for \$20.00, plus Post Office Box rent, and reimbursement check to Mark Coe. Accounts payable amount 2,836.09. Motioned by Linda, supported by Dave to accept the Treasurers report and the payment of bills. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Finalizing the Ribbon Cutting for Saturday, August 15, 2026 at 11 o'clock AM**
Discussion on finalizing the plans for the "Ribbon Cutting". Linda only had the original list to go from but sent flyers out to invite the various persons on it, including Michelle Fedder from the newspaper, Scott Slavin, AJ's Excavating, County Recreation Commission, MCCF, County Commissioners, TARP, Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, among others. It was decided to have it at the trailhead in Copemish. Rob will get the tent from Maple Grove Community Center. Linda has the other material and rack cards, etc. and will try and get some pictures of the trail and bridge to display. Linda will get ribbon, Zach will get scissors from Chamber. It was decided to have refreshments (water, cookies, granola bars, etc) and Linda will pick them up Thursday and get reimbursed.

IV. Old Business

1. **Trail Development Proposal**
Mark has this and is absent tonight so tabled until next month.
2. **Tribal Discussion**
On hold at this time.
3. **Trail Flip Chart**
Tabled, but not forgotten..
4. **Gate Design for Closing of Trails to Vehicle Traffic**
Rob contacted the guy that does this and we should have some prices by next months meeting.
5. **Chief Grade Parking**
Mark was working on this. Check with him next month.
6. **Trail Counters**
On hold. Claire and Mark were working on this, neither here this month.
7. **Mock up signs**
Zach updating the logo for the signs, dimensions are 12 x 18 inches. Wait until next month to discuss.
8. **Reports from Other Trail Entities**
None at this time.

V. Other Business

1. **Recreation Commission Update**
No meeting, but the County Planning Commission is working on finalizing the County Recreation Plan.
2. Sara Herberger reminded all that the 2026 Fall Grant Cycle for the MCCF is September 15, 2026.
3. The Rail Relocation project in Manistee is moving forward, with the Manistee County Board of Commissioners making it a priority now.
4. Robert Schulke stated the "Big Bear Butt Cruise" will be August 22, 2026. The Big Bear Sportsman's Club has donated 84 bikes so far (this is the 3rd summer they have done it). Along with the bikes are helmets, etc. which are donated also. Also the Big Bear Sportsman's Club does a Christmas Dinner every year on Christmas Day from Noon to 2:00 PM.
5. The Kaleva Trailhead project is moving forward with a smaller venue, with possibly a pre-fab building to go on site, and just bathrooms. They can go for a Trust Fund Grant next year.

VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence

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

Next meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026 in Kaleva at the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds Club at 14121 Industrial Drive, Kaleva.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:
Linda Cudney, Secretary

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