



Friends of SMARTrails Board Meeting Minutes Monday, January 9, 2023 Kaleva Community Center 6:00 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Elaine Gibbs, Mary Reed, Al Taylor.

Guests: Mark Coe, Charles Kraus, Jan Myers, Scott Slavin by phone.

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Rob Carson, president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **December 12, 2022 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Karen Kolk, seconded by Dave Myers to accept the minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque Erdman presented a financial report, which is not the final end of the year report but furnished a Statement of Income and Expenses and Financial Position. There was the one monthly recurring bill to pay to Pro Web Marketing for \$25.00. We will have to submit an annual report May 15 and if we go over the \$50,000.00 limit of fundraising, Jacque suggested we have a CPA do the report. Rob will check into closing out the Minger grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Karen seconded the motion. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business**
 1. **Charles Kraus, from TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project)**
Charles gave an overview of the creating of TARP, with a Board of Directors, and forming a 501C-3. They have a Historical Marker in place (which belongs to the DNR) and are in a process of getting grants to create park facilities, trailhead, visitor center, etc. They have hired Mansfield & Associates of Traverse City as engineers of the project. They also submitted a SPARK Grant for \$800,000.00. Rob Carson, stated that if they need a letter of support, SMARTrails will be glad to help.
 2. **Memorandum of Understanding between FBVT, TARP and SMARTrails**
Discussion with Scott Slavin of the DNR, Charles Kraus of TARP and SMARTrails regarding the concerns of the Memorandum of Understanding. Rob confirmed the EDA Grant criteria will complete the trail from Thompson Ave to County Road 669. Friends of SMARTrails primary goal is grassroots. Trail signage was discussed and Scott Slavin from the DNR stated

the DNR has sign standards. The naming of the trails was discussed and the DNR has the oversight of all the trail names. The Betsie Valley Trail runs from Frankfort to Yuma. The spur from Thompsonville to Crystal Mountain was discussed and the DNR and Snowbirds support the spur, but easements will have to be worked out. Rob will work on the Memorandum of Understanding points.

3. Meeting dates for 2023

Linda passed out the 2023 calendar with all meeting dates scheduled for the second Monday of the month for 2023. Motioned by Rob, seconded by Zach to approve the calendar dates for 2023. AIF

4. Update of Website

Zach stated that the marketing committee will be meeting to decide on some changes to the website. The Google Non Profit is set up but cannot link the Google and Google Non Profit. Rob will try and get ahold of Jim Gribble and see if things can be worked out. Facebook does not like the Post Office Box, and wants a physical address. Jacque's address is on the checking account along with the PO Box, but this will have to be looked into.

5. EDA Update

Rob stated RFP's are written for engineering firms and after obtained will be seeking sealed bids. Permits will be needed, and the bridge over Bear Creek will be a pre fab bridge and constructed off site and moved to the site. Scott Slavin will send some pictures of pre fab bridges. The pilings will have to be pulled before the bridge is put in. The group talked about maybe being present when the bridge is set.

IV. Old Business

1. Recreation Commission Update.

Linda reported the January meeting was changed to Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM as Monday, January 2, 2023 was considered a holiday.

2. Mark Coe, from the Manistee Snowbirds

Mark Coe brought us up to date on the bridge over the Manistee River with possible construction in 2024. The Interlochen grade from northeast of Thompsonville to Reynolds Road, approximately 11.5 miles is coming up in the future. Plus, there is a small trail project that the Snowbirds have been working on behind the Blue Slipper and Township offices in Onekama, to the EZ mart.

V. Other Business

1. Linda read a message from the new Village of Copemish president. She is working on a grant to put a memorial historical garden between M-115 and the railroad tracks in Copemish, with benches, flowers and veteran plaques. She contacted Linda, since she is part of the Historical Society. If she can wait until the trail is put in, it could maybe be coordinated with the trail. Linda will let her know that we will send her a letter of support if needed.

2. It was motioned and supported to send a thank you to Rusty Fish for their donation to SMARTrails. (Zach will send Linda the address to send it to). Also, a thank you to Charles Kraus for attending our meeting and giving us an overview of TARP. Linda will send them out.

3. Tamara Buswinka was scheduled to be here in January to go over the Strategic Plan. Linda and her talked but could not set up a time. Rob will try and get ahold of her. Maybe have her come in the spring.

4. Future planning. Rusty Fish will be October 14, 2023. Need to check on Festivals for 2023.

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

VII. Next meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2023, at 9208 Kauko Street, Kaleva at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney
Secretary
Friends of SMARTrails**

Thursday, January 19, 2023 Marketing Committee meeting (maybe Google Suite?)