



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

Board Members Present: Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Dave Myers; Mark Coe. Rob arrived later.

Board Members Absent: Claire Richard, Zachary Pawlowski, Rob Carson, Elaine Gibbs.

Guests: Jan Myers, Bonnie Brown.

- I. **Since there was not a quorum at this meeting, these are meeting notes for reference only.**
 1. **Jacque Erdman volunteered to chair the meeting in the absence of both the president and vice president. Meeting opened at 6:00 PM.**
 2. **Bonnie Brown is interested in being involved with SMARTrails, She is an avid bike rider and retired school teacher and very interest in being involved.**
 3. **Jacque Erdman recommended to have the Board nominate Bonnie Brown to fill the vacant position left by Karen Kolk. The recommendation will be on the agenda for our next meeting where a quorum will be present.**
 4. **Jacque Erdman passed out the financial reports for SMARTrails. Still have to purchase a tent, banner, etc. with Minger money. She will get ahold of Zach about being the second signer on the checking account.**
 5. **All who attended signed a card for Karen Kolk, thanking her on her years of service to SMARTrails. Linda will sign the other board members names and send on to Karen.**
 6. **Mark Coe reported that all the quotes were in for the Thompsonville to Interlochen route. He also reported the snowbirds designated October 21 and November 11 as Clean up Trails days and October 28, 2023 will be the Landowner Appreciation Dinner at the Snowbirds clubhouse in Kaleva. (There are approximately 160 miles and 40 private landowners that volunteer their property for trails). Snowmobile season is December 1 thru March 31 of each year.**
 7. **Mark Coe stated that the DNR has never had a Land Acquisition Person in lower Michigan, which is needed. He suggested possibly a letter of support for this.**

8. There was a correction to the minutes of September under Board Members Comments and should read “the current culvert on the rail grade (Betsie Creek) W of Interlochen will be reinforced. There will be 16 ft ballast culverts added in the wet areas along the old rail grade on State land).
9. Rob sent an email in his absence and stated the EDA project continues to move forward. The engineering firm is having a third party consultant reevaluate the wetland delineation and once it is completed, the permits and applications will be submitted.
10. Rob would like the November 13, 2023 meeting to gain input from this committee regarding a large-scale community engagement trail across the 10 County region, lead by Networks Northwest. They would like to schedule sessions in Manistee County, at various locations to discuss existing strategies supported by communities and transferring them into this MDOT Plan.
11. Linda gave an update on the County Recreation Commission stating an agreement was made between the Village of Kaleva and Manistee County Recreation Commission for a grant application for a ADA compliant bathroom facility and trailhead in the Village of Kaleva. The grant was submitted to MCCF for \$78,100.00 with a 15% match based on the engineering proposal that was received. The ORV map still has a couple of corrections. Mike Szkola is gone from Manistee County. Katie Mehl is stepping into that position.
12. Meeting closed at 6:45 PM.

Next meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2023 in Kaleva at the Community Center.

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by:

Linda Cudney
Secretary, Friends of SMARTrails