

FCRT Board Meeting May 9, 2023, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton, Marci Finton, Sherry Mason, Bill Dross, Keith Knighton, Tom Maxeiner, Calvin Ernst, Tom Kennedy, Bill Eldridge, Dave Hotchkiss, Marcel Moody, Joyce Hayden, Jerry Boyle, Ed Easley, Susan and Mark Miller, Chris Adsit and Julia Catalano

Two new board members were voted in this month, Tom Kennedy and Susan Miller. Board member Dick Siverling passed away April 25, 2023. Bill Dross will look into placing a bench under I-79 in Dick's memory.

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting. Jerry reported of two anonymous donors contributing to CHCF. He will prepare thank yous.

Charlie Flynn will be closing the McNally Trust out by sending us \$20500 then transferring 800 shares of NWSB stock to CHCF for future income. Jerry expects disbursement interest from investments from CHCF will make up for the \$5000 match that will be lost with the closing of the trust.

Trail Blazer 2023: Date has been set for Sunday, July 9, 2023. Members are reminded to contact potential sponsors this month. Sherry will correct the date on lawn signs. Participant applications are low but similar to levels at this time last year.

Spring Support Letter: Joyce sent out and donations are starting to arrive.

Connector Report: Grant money received will depend on how much paving can be done. Act 13 Funds awarded us \$73,400. This requires a 50% match. Peter will continue with the bidding process. A work crew met April 24 to continue clearing brush from the creek side across from benches behind what is now Post. Dick E, Bill D and Sherry will meet with representatives from Post to get their thoughts on improving that area. Post would like the signage changed and possibly a gazebo or more benches. Dick will inquire about parking at MGP.

Dick and Bill are planning on attending the Vernon Township meeting June 1 to let them know of our progress, plans and thank them for their support.

MGP to Bicentennial Park: Ed will meet with representatives of Michael Baker International on May 24 for consulting on the best way to achieve access between these two points.

Trail Maintenance: Bill is still planning to rent a brush style scraper, or two, to remove the moss on the sides of the trail. Bill will contact Union Township to grade Mt Pleasant Rd where the trail crosses because of washout. Dick E reported large woodchuck holes on the trail East of Johnson Rd that will need to be filled. Several leaning trees will need a professional tree service. We will need to get bids. Bill D reported that he ordered a leaf blower from Saegertown Hardware.

Loggers are still working. Firewood is available to be picked up from the sides of the trail.

Conneaut Lake end: CL Garden Club will be hosting us at their meeting on June 13 held at CC Winery.

A kiosk with information about the canal is in the plans. Jean Weber offered her grandsons to construct it.

Julia Catalano provided us with an interesting report on the canal at the Watson Run bridge and near 322, indicating that a kiosk with information would be valuable at the Watson Run Bridge also.

Calvin will attend the Vernon Township meeting for sponsorship for the tunnel project under Rt 19 on June 1.

Calvin plans to use a machine to pick up sticks and grade the Nature Trail. Sherry will design a sign to be placed under the Nature Trail sign indicating the parking area beyond the property of Mr Griggs. Calvin will check with Joal Wolff of CCWinery about mowing the around the sign. A work night is planned for May 22 at the trail to re-secure the orange fence and any other needs prior to the June 13 meeting. Meet at 5:00 at the winery, bring loppers, trimmers, rakes and small chain saws.

Calvin gave an explanation of the agreement between the Commonwealth of PA Game Commission and Ernst Farm. Jerry B motioned to have Dick Eglinton sign the agreement, Tom Kennedy seconded. Motion passed.

Calvin reported the engineers will be coming the week of May 22 to inspect the piers for structural stability over Watson Run. Quotes for a 3 piece bridge from ADM are \$85,000 for bridge, \$10,000 for engineering and \$15,000 for installation.

By-Pass Trail end: no report

Grants: Act 13 awarded us \$73400 for paving. Ed will apply for DCED for a prefabricated bridge over Watson Run. Peter estimated \$110,000 for the bridge, engineering and installation.

Bike Rentals: Marci reported we are still waiting on two bike workstations and posts ordered through Pat Emig. We have funding for both of them.

Next meeting will be June 13, 2023 6:30 at Conneaut Cellars Winery Pavilion.

Race meeting and possible board meeting June 28, 6:15, Ernst Conservation Seed.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm. Submitted by Marci Finton