

FCRT Board Meeting August 1, 2023, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton, Marci Finton, Bill Dross, Keith Knighton, Tom Maxeiner, Calvin Ernst, Dave Hotchkiss, Joyce Hayden, Jerry Boyle, Ed Easley, Susan and Mark Miller, Jean Weber, Peter Oven, Chris Adsit, Tom Kennedy and Cameron Guffy

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting. Profit from the Trail Blazer was \$3400. Membership mailing donations were \$5185. Parker-Lord sent an employee driven donation.

Trail Blazer 2023: Profit from the Trail Blazer was \$3400. The issues with the timer were discussed. Susan will get references for Wolff Creek Timing. The mats seemed to work well for the wheelchair racers.

Spring Support Letter: Jerry reported approximately \$5185 in donations have arrived. This is down from last year. Marci circulated thank yous to be signed by the board for donors that did not provide an email.

Connector Report: Peter advertised for paving with bids due August 24. Discussion on a proposed parking area at MGP and who owns the property and if FCRT easements were transferred when Post purchased Smuckers. Peter sent the surveyor map from Ron Baker to Dave H to review. Peter reports there is no downside to getting the easement for the parking area now, and for the paving. Post is mowing behind the plant still. Post is busy with plant improvements so we/they may not be putting in a pavilion this year. An increase in litter has been noted at the benches behind Post. This is not an ideal area for a trash can because of access to empty it. The plaza access was built provisionally. Dick will talk with the Phyllis' to see about a possibility of a trail head under/beside the Smock Bridge.

MGP to Bicentennial Park: Ed has met with representatives of Michael Baker International and others. Safety is priority and appearance is secondary. A decision is expected to be made by June 2024.

Trail Maintenance: Bill is still planning to rent a brush style scraper, or two, to remove the moss on the sides of the trail. Mt Pleasant Road continues to wash out with heavy rains. It is passable but users are cautioned to be aware. Dick E reported large woodchuck holes on the trail East of Johnson Rd that still need to be filled. Cory Nichols has removed 3 trees that were leaning. Vernon mowed the from Smock Bridge to Dross Bridge and knocked down the knotweed. Brian Bean fabricated a pull for the mower and new blower. Bill is replacing the starter on the red mower soon. Bill reported talking with Vernon Township maintenance crew about them using their keys to remove the bollards to allow an ambulance onto the trail to attend to an injured person. Bill will contact Erik Kulasa about ditch clean out.

Conneaut Lake end: Calvin reported he will be removing more trees and grading again when time permits. He may plan a work day/evening in September. We will designate the needed bridge over Watson Run as the project for Crawford Gives this year. Bill Eldridge shared some names for us to send letters outlining our progress at the CL End and our need for support. Jerry developed the letter; Joyce will address and send out.

By-Pass Trail end: no report

Grants: Ed reported PennDOT's application for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) has been filed for the Tunnel project under 19. Katy Flaherty submitted the TASA Ap report needed. PennDOT will be in contact when more information is needed.

Bike Rentals: Acknowledgement stickers were installed on the bike work stations. Marci sent photos and thank yous to Gordon Miller and Meadville Bike Share.

Vernon Township: Rob Horvat asked for a long term plan update. He and Ashley Porter will look for the old one so we can review but we haven't heard from them yet.

Other business: Larry Kebert will not allow paving across his side of the HD easement to attach the existing pavement to the new pavement. He insists we need to purchase his land to have an option for parking if Bean's or new owners of Bean's property disallow parking where is currently is. There may be a small area available for parking on FCVC property.

Crawford County Outdoors with Duane Koller and Calvin Ernst has been released. Marci sent the link.

November meeting: Ed will see if Zach Norwood would give a presentation on the overall plans.

Next meeting will be September 12, 2023 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed

Meeting adjourned 8:45. Submitted by Marci Finton