

FCRT Board Meeting September 12, 2023, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton, Marci Finton, Bill Dross, Keith Knighton, Calvin Ernst, Joyce Hayden, Jerry Boyle, Ed Easley, Susan and Mark Miller, Jean Weber, Chris Adsit, Tom Kennedy, Sherry & Wally Mason, Bob Wimer, Peggy Mogush, and Ashley Hicks.

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting. Jerry suggested buying a CD to help invest our money. Rate is 5.1%, penalties are minimal. Sherry motioned to allow Jerry to open an account with Raymond James Bank to be able to purchase CD. Tom Kennedy seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

Jerry spoke about the McNally Match letter campaign. We need to change the wording to McNally maintenance appeal because the McNally Trust has been closed. Jerry will draft a letter to be sent out early October.

Trail Blazer July 14, 2024: Susan got references for Wolff Creek Timing. They have more to offer such as Runsignup.com, sponsors on that website and real time reporting. We will need to start in Jan 2024 for sponsors.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: Kathy Wyrosdick, Senior Planning Manager from Michael Baker International reported on their progress. They have proposed two pathways to face the challenges of meandering trails through urban areas. The Project Management Team used a combination of two of the proposed routes from the feasibility study from last year. Kathy will be contacting people and businesses along the proposed route. In October, the PMT will hold a summit. FCRT should be well represented.

Crawford Gives: Jerry reported \$12,668 plus Calvin's \$10,500 in donations. Marci circulated thank yous to be signed by the board for donors. Joyce will mail them.

Connector Report: Peter reported via email that bids were substantially higher than anticipated. He spoke with representatives from Horizon on cost cutting measures such as reducing from 4" to 3", smaller diameter. He will forward information as he receives it. Wetland crossings are very costly.

Trail Maintenance: Bill reported good success with the brush style scraper to remove the moss and especially the sod on the sides of the trail. A work day is planned for Wednesday, September 20 to work on the trail from Mercer to Mt Pleasant Rd. The large woodchuck holes on the trail East of Johnson Rd still need to be filled. The bench under I-79 to remember Dick Siverling is being worked on. Signs reminding trail users to be aware of the dangers of mosquitos and ticks have been installed. More will be installed when they are ready. Erik Kulasa completed the yearly ditch and drainpipe clean out. Joel Stone from Vernon Township cut from Bailey Rd to the trailer park. There are some low branches along this stretch which will need to be trimmed. Keith reported the bike repair station at Krider Rd has had some tools come loose. Bill contacted Pat Emig and he repaired it but will get us new tools with connectors. It was noted that there is a sleeping area with abundant trash near the boat launch at MGP. Dick will make Post aware of it.

Conneaut Lake end: Calvin reported no news on the bridge. Ed gave requested info to the RK Mellon Foundation.

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 said the application was acceptable and requested more details. Dick, Jerry, Ed, Calvin and Katy met before the meeting to get the information together.

Bike Rentals: No report

Vernon Township: no report

Other business: Better signage is needed to direct trail users along Semerad Rd, over Route 19 and through the trailer court. Marci asked for approval to sell tickets for a quilt raffle via email. She will be selling tickets at Fox's Sew and Vac in the Downtown Mall. Drawing will be November 14.

Marci reported talking to Kevin Boozle from FCVC. They are still interested in purchasing some land along French Creek.

Jerry will check with Home Depot Corporate to see about the property between our sign and the HD Lot about a potential parking area.

Calvin will meet with Lorri Drumm and videographers from WQLN on September 18 to get footage and information about the beaver dams.

Meadville Lions Club requested a speaker November 16. Calvin And Dick will attend at the ICC.

November meeting: Ed confirmed that Zach Norwood would give a presentation on the county's overall plans. November 14, place TBD

Next meeting will be October 10, 2023 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed

Meeting adjourned 8:50. Submitted by Marci Finton