

FCRT Board Meeting October 10, 2023, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle Marci Finton Bill Dross Sherry and Wally Mason

Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Jean Weber Dave Hotchkiss Cameron Guffey Peter Oven Bill Eldridge Chris Adsit Jan Hyatt

Guest Jan Hyatt presented a program on a walking initiative to raise money for playgrounds in the Meadville area called Walkable Meadville. She was asking for a collaboration between FCRT and Walkable Meadville for dedicated routes on Ernst Trail with a guide. Interested members may contact Jan directly.

Marci read a resignation letter from long time board member Joyce Hayden. Marci will draft a covered bridge plaque idea and send it around to the board for approval and editing.

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting. Jerry opened an account with Raymond James Bank to be able to purchase CD. He is collecting money for the annual dinner. The accountant fee has been paid. McNally Maintenance letters were sent out.

Jerry reported the McNally Trust is closed and documents are ready to be signed. Dave Hotchkiss suggested eliminating a paragraph indemnifying the Trustee. Jerry will send the correction to Charlie Flynn for approval.

**\*\*Note\*\*** since the meeting, the papers have been signed to confirm the closing of the McNally Trust. Jerry suggested we have 3 of the porta-johns taken in for the winter months due to cost and low usage. He will contact Powell's.

Trail Blazer July 14, 2024: No report. We will need to start in Jan 2024 for sponsors.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: PMT will hold a summit, date TBD. FCRT should be well represented.

Connector Report: Peter was able to work with Horizon to reduce the cost of paving to fit into our budget. Horizon may be able to complete the work this Fall, weather dependent.

Trail Maintenance: Bill Dross reported that he and Cameron are working on a bench for Dick Siverling under I-79. The mosquito signs are installed reminding trail users to cover exposed skin and use insect repellent. Better signage needs to be installed with marked routes around Bailey Rd area, Semerad Rd area and trailer park. Calvin, Katy, and Sherry will work on getting maps drawn for signs. The moss may need to be sprayed to kill it properly to make the trail safer. The sod has been pushed off the edges exposing more asphalt. Leaf blowing has started and will continue.

Marci reported John Harrison who has been volunteering mowing from Beans to Mercer Pike is retiring from mowing. A new volunteer will be needed in the Spring. Stop signs at Kenney Hill Rd are faded and will be replaced by Bill and crew.

Conneaut Lake end: Calvin met with Lorri Drumm and videographers from WQLN on September 18 to get footage and information about the beavers and beaver dams.

November 8 at 2:30, there is a court proceeding with G Griggs. FCRT should be well represented.

Calvin and Dave H will be visiting ADM with plans for the bridge crossing South Watson Run.

Manufacture may take as long as 3 months. Calvin reported that Sadsbury Township will be helping FCRT with grading the surface from CCW to Bailey Rd.

Bill Eldridge presented a framework he thought would be appropriate for canal information on a kiosk. CL Historical Society envisions one informational kiosk at the canal across Coleman Dr from CCW and another near S Watson Run Bridge. Sherry has some ideas of how to display the information. Sherry and Bill will discuss. He also suggested we visit their improved website NewConneautLake.com. Marci has been in contact with Jay Verno about being the point person for maintenance needs at the CL end.

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. PennDOT reported that this million-dollar project is in que to be addressed.

Bike Rentals: No report

Vernon Township: no report

Other business: Marci will be selling tickets for a quilt raffle at Fox's Sew and Vac in the Downtown Mall. Drawing will be November 14.

Jerry has tried to check with Home Depot Corporate to see about the property between our sign and the HD Lot about a potential parking area. He hasn't been able to get any information.

Meadville Lions Club need for a November 16 speaker may have been cancelled. Jean will check to confirm.

Bill Eldridge invited FCRT to have a booth at the Winter Ice House Festival on Dec 2. We will have a table advertising the trail with sign ups for volunteers. We are looking for a tent with sides to stand under.

November meeting: Ed confirmed that Zach Norwood would give a presentation on the county's long-term plans and goals. Wednesday, November 15, Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club. Doors open at 5 with a cash bar, buffet dinner at 6:00. Presentation at 7:00. Cost is \$31.80

Marci will send out e-invitations to local dignitaries.

Next meeting will be December 12, 2023 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed. This will be a meeting to make long range plans, we will not hold a regular business meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:45. Submitted by Marci Finton