

FCRT Board Meeting January 9, 2024, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle (via Zoom) Marci Finton Bill Dross (via Zoom) Sherry and Wally Mason Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Dave Hotchkiss Cameron Guffey Peter Oven Bill Eldridge Chris Adsit Susan Miller Mark Miller Erik Kulasa Kathy Kulasa

Review of officers – President Dick Eglinton, VP Ed Easley, Treasurer Jerry Boyle, Secretary Marci Finton Tom Kennedy made a motion to approve, Susan Miller seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting. Jerry made a motion to deposit the quarterly distributions from CHCF into the maintenance account due to the McNally Match Trust Fund being closed. Tom Kennedy seconded, motion passed.

Trail Blazer July 14, 2024: Susan reported on the contract from Wolf Creek Timing. Sign ups will be through RunSignUp.com for preregistrations and race day. Sponsors will be promoted on that website so we need to secure sponsors early. Sherry will rework the sponsor forms and registration forms. We will need to watch for wheel chair registrations also.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: PMT will hold a summit, date TBD. FCRT should be well represented. HydroBlox is not responding to requests to meet. The trail may need to traverse along French Creek Parkway. Zach Norwood thought maybe the City of Meadville would like a crossing into the city across the bypass.

Connector Report: Paving is waiting until clear weather. The possibility of lower cost due to oil prices could work in our favor, allowing for further paving.

Trail Maintenance: The family of Dick Siverling was appreciative of the bench under I-79 placed in Dick's memory.

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. Bill will continue to look for a viable solution.

Cameron reported the roof on the kiosk at Mercer Pike is in bad condition. He has offered to do the work. He will decide on asphalt shingles again or metal roof, depending on cost.

Cameron has been in contact with Greg Beveridge from 911 Call Center. He suggests changing the bollard locks to combination locks so the appropriate emergency personnel can access the trail easier instead of searching to see who has the correct key.

Bailey Trail Head's handicapped sign will need to be replaced due to graffiti. Cameron will replace it.

Conneaut Lake end: Court proceedings with G Griggs have been postponed again. FCRT should be well represented when it is rescheduled.

Calvin reported the steel will be arriving at ADM within the next week or two for the bridge across S Watson Run. Erik met with the crane company. They will stay in touch with each other.

Bill Eldridge reported the CL Historical Society will provide a metal cabinet that will house the information about the canal. FCRT will need to build a kiosk to hold the cabinet with room to post our information, similar to those at Mercer Pike and Bean's Trail Heads. Erik will contact Carter Lumber to see if they will donate wood for the project.

Marci has been in contact with Jay Verno about being the point person for maintenance needs at the CL end. He has compiled a list of volunteers.

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. He was told these take a long time.

A future grant may be applied for to pave the parking area past CC Winery.

Bike Rentals: No report

Vernon Township: no report

Other business:

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.

FCRT had a booth at the Winter Ice House Festival on Dec 2. Brochures were available and Ernst Trail t-shirts were sold. Jay Verno got several sign-up volunteers.

Jan Hayatt, a guest presenter at the October meeting, is planning on using the trail Saturday mornings starting March 23 for a program called Walkable Meadville to raise funds for playgrounds around Meadville. She has 18 teams signed up. Sherry and Susan will assist on these walks.

Next meeting will be February 13, 2024 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed. Trail Blazer race meeting will start at 6:15.

Meeting adjourned 8:09. Submitted by Marci Finton