

FCRT Board Meeting February 13, 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 Tom Kennedy Jean Weber Dave Hotchkiss Cameron Guffey Chris Adsit Susan Miller Mark Miller Erik Kulasa Kathy Kulasa

Trail Blazer July 14, 2024: A race committee meeting was held at 6:15. One big change this year is all registrations will be handled online by Wolf Creek Timing services. Sherry will send around the corrected sponsor information and advertisement of race which is similar to an old registration form. Sponsors will be advertised on the online registration as well as the participant shirts. Members are encouraged to secure sponsors early. We will need to watch for wheelchair participants to see if we should get the mats from Sunbelt again. Members are reminded to bring the yard signs so Sherry can get the dates changed. We will need as many members to work the race as possible.

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting. He explained that the CHCF quarterly distribution amount is estimated at the beginning of the year so it will be different from last month.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: Michael Baker Internation is holding an Ernst Trail Meadville Connection Stakeholder Summit. The Summit will be taking place on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 from 2pm – 4pm, at the EPACC Building located at 798 Bessemer St. FCRT should be will represented. This is not open to the public.

Dave Hotchkiss reported a meeting with Vernon zoning officer revealed that there was no easement in with the sale to Post. He will ready a document like the one used for the easement with Ainsworth to approach Thom Shorts of Post.

Connector Report: No report.

Trail Maintenance: Erik Kulasa of haF.AST DIRTWORKS submitted a quote for repairing root damage on the Trail section approx. 200 yards after covered bridge to end of field. “Cut and excavate roots that are crossing the trail. Grade and compact any excavated areas. Grind humps in the trail smooth with pavement milling machine. Clean any debris off the trail. Quote of \$1640.” Tom Kennedy made a motion to accept the bid, Ed Easley seconded, motion passed. Erik will complete the work as the weather permits.

Tom Maxeiner and Keith Knighton have cut and cleared downed trees as needed.

Better signage needs to be installed with marked routes around Bailey Rd area, Semerad Rd area and trailer park. Sherry presented maps drawn for signage. It was suggested to mark the route through the trailer park clearer. She will get them printed.

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. He will move forward on it as the weather permits.

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. He will get locks appropriate for outdoors.

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

Bill reported new Adopt a Trail volunteers will be needed from Bean’s to Shippen St. The Girl Scout Troop can no longer participate due to the low volume of volunteers.

There is an increase of mud dragged onto the trail from the ATVs crossing. Members are encouraged to grab a

shovel and clear it when they are able.

Conneaut Lake end: Court proceedings with G Griggs have not been rescheduled.

Calvin reported the bridge may be arriving within the next week or two across S Watson Run. Erik met with the crane company. Tom Kennedy expressed interest in being there. He has a large internet presence and posting on social sites will help get the word out.

Cameron has ideas on designs to build a kiosk to hold the cabinet from CL Historical Society plus room to post our information, similar to those at Mercer Pike and Bean's Trail Heads. Calvin suggested it should be placed at the parking area. It could be two sided to hold all the information. Erik confirmed Carter Lumber will donate supplies for the project.

Kathy Kulasa reported that there is a sink hole in the middle of the trail approximately 1.25 mile from Conneaut Cellars. Calvin graded it and it filled it in but we should watch for any further issues.

Marci had been in contact with Jay Verno who has a list of volunteers should the need arise.

By-Pass Trail end: no report but members have noticed PennDOT getting prepared for work.

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.

FCVC Acquisition of property owned by KT Developers: Dave Hotchkiss spoke with Chris Fery and suggests we engage his services to complete the transaction. He quotes \$250/hours. Dave will ask for an approximate total from Chris. The Board can vote via email if the cost is within our budget. Brenda Costa from FCVC will be facilitating the acquisition.

Bike Rentals: No report

Vernon Township: no report

Other business:

Dick sent around a sympathy card for all to sign for the family of Jim Lang, long time supporter of the trail.

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. There has been publicity in the Meadville Tribune so we could have quite a large group on the Trail.

Sherry will attend the ad hoc committee of FCVC Friday Feb 16.

Marci asked for permission to sign the agreement with Powells for the porta johns. They have not increased in price. Each unit is \$90/month, 6 units for \$560.00 monthly.

Next meeting will be March 12, 2024 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed. Trail Blazer race meeting will start at 6:15.

Meeting adjourned 8:09. Submitted by Marci Finton