

FCRT Board Meeting May 13, 2025, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle Marci Finton Bill Dross Sherry Mason Wally Mason Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Tom Kennedy Jean Weber Susan Miller Mark Miller Cameron Guffey Bill Eldridge Marcel Moody Chris Adsit Bill McComas Karen Fabian Ed Fabian

Financial Report: Jerry sent before meeting, reviewed at the meeting. Calvin expressed dismay at the naming of the accounts. Tom Kennedy motioned to rename some of the grant monies as Miscellaneous. Sherry seconded. Jerry will investigate combining checking accounts now that we no longer get the McNally Match.

Trail Blazer July 13, 2025: We will keep the start times at 7:30am and 7:35am due to heat. We will not advertise wheelchair category but can accommodate if there is a need. So far 27 participants have signed up. Susan proposed a route from the flagpole, onto Mercer Pike, right on the trail all the way to Shippen St, return the same way, cross Mercer Pike to Mt Pleasant Rd then return to Mercer Pike onto Ernst Seed property. There is enough distance. Marcel and Chris will coordinate markings with Susan. Water stations will change slightly. Volunteers will be needed race morning. Sponsors are still welcome as they are most of our profit.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: Dick is waiting on an engineering quote from Steve Halmi. Valley Lawn Care said they would plow the 2 sections of sidewalk from the blue bridge east and on Mead Ave for \$150 a shot. DCED grant is due May 31 so hopefully the quote will come soon.

Connector Report: Commercial Turf will spray for weeds when the weather clears. Moss on the asphalt will be sprayed as well. Karen reported there seems to be less trash lately behind Post. Discussion was held on the possibility of a trash can near the benches. A receptacle with a small opening would be best to keep household trash out. Keith and Karen will empty as necessary if one is installed.

Trail Maintenance: A number of dead Ash trees were noticed around the curve and south of the covered bridge. Jerry motioned to spend the Park-Lord grant for Nichols Tree service for removal, Susan seconded. A workday is scheduled for Monday, May 19 5:00 for the trees our crew can safely do.

Erik repaired the wash out of the trail close to Johnson Rd.

Cameron notified 911, fire departments and other emergency services about the re-marking of the miles on the trail. He suggested a 30 second video be recorded on the process of removing the bollards. Marci will contact Mike Keely from AC to help record.

Authorized vehicle signs have been installed.

Bill reminded anyone who needs to drive a vehicle on the trail to use hazard lights and give the right of way to bikes and pedestrians.

Bill reported that the Keith Mink bridge has some loose bolts, and the third bridge needs to be resurfaced. Cameron offered to look into a metal surface for longevity and be less slippery.

Peter asked everyone to notice anything about the trail that touches on safety and to please email him so he can start a list. He reminded us that these things can probably be small amounts of money to improve, and there are always small grant opportunities every year, so having a list of shovel ready projects would be nice.

A few suggestions were Slippery when Wet signs for bridges and a sign alerting users of the curve at the end of Bill's bridge.

Bill will contact Vernon about painting caution/trail crossing lines on West Vernon Rd.

A paved handicap space at Bean's Trail Head was discussed. Erik said a pad 16' x 20' to the right when entering the lot would be a great spot. He estimated \$4500. We will ask Hannah Lovell for guidance on getting a grant.

Washout along the Home Depot retention pond has been an ongoing problem. Mark suggested a Chapter 105 water encroachment permit to construct a seawall-like barrier to secure the trail may be necessary.

Bill reported the need for new Adopt a Trail signs and sponsor signs. Susan motioned to give Bill up to \$500 spending on the signs, Cameron seconded.

Karen will post on FB the need for adopt a trail volunteers at the Conneaut Lake end.

Cameron repaired a bench at the Bailey Rd trail head and cleared brush.

Cameron requested that when a downed tree is reported, give details, i.e., how big, chain saws required, location at mile marker, is a tractor required, or other pertinent information.

Conneaut Lake end: Calvin arranged for gravel to be hauled and placed on the roadway and for the pad for the library gazebo, using his own gravel. Ed motioned to pay the cost for the hauling of \$6750, Cameron seconded. Moving the gazebo will be underway awaiting better weather. The benches in the gazebo will be kept and reinstalled after delivery.

Calvin has been talking with Brian McNulty at PennDOT. He will get a plan to Brian for the tunnel under 19.

By-Pass Trail end: no report.

Bessemer Trail: Mowing will be completed by probation office participants under the direction of Jim Dupont. We will watch for knot weed penetrating the surface and tackle the issues as needed.

Grants: Crawford County has mini-grants that Jerry will investigate. Grants for engineering the tunnel under 19 and the engineering from Shippen to Bicentennial Park will be needed in the future.

Bike Rentals: no report

Vernon Township: no report

Other business: no report

Next meeting will be June 10, 2025 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed. Trail Blazer race meeting will start at 6:15.

Meeting adjourned 8:35. Submitted by Marci Finton