

FCRT Board Meeting Aug 12, 2025, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle Bill Dross Sherry Mason Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Jean Weber Brian Weber Karen Fabian David Hotchkiss Susan Miller Mark Miller Chris Adsit Bill McComas Marcel Moody Tom Kennedy

Financial Report: Jerry sent before the meeting, reviewed at the meeting. No significant bills are due. Jerry reported that the Maintenance account has been combined into the General Operating account as approved at last meeting. From now on both will be combined under the General Operating account. The quarterly dividend from Crawford Heritage Fund will be \$2563.80. Jerry mentioned the good financial results of Trailblazer run, better than any previous year. It was notable that we received approx. \$7000 from sponsors that was \$3000 more than usual, so thanks to all who engaged with the sponsors. "Crawford Gives" fundraiser started today and goes through the 15th. It has become our biggest donor so keep spreading the word to donate to Ernst Trail. There is a small matching grant that will be awarded if all board members donate at least \$25. Jerry will report the results of Crawford Gives when they are available.

The Winslow grant application will be due October 15th, a possible project we could seek funding for would be the handicap parking spot at Bean's. We will discuss again next meeting.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: Dick has been in contact for an engineering quote from Steve Halmi. Since we are still unsure about what will happen with the Hydroblox property we are looking to just get a quote from Shippen St to the Boot Box for now. Dick will follow up with Steve to get a meeting together for the specifics of the quote.

By Pass trail and Bessemer Trail: Nothing specific to report on the By Pass trail, but there is now 2 way traffic on the west lane and some work is happening where the trail will be on the east lane. The Bessemer trail maintenance is proceeding well with the work release group being supervised by Jim DuPont.

Trail Maintenance:

Bill reported that he has adjusted the door and latch at the Bean's maintenance shed which was getting stuck. The shed has shifted possibly due to groundhog activity under the shed.

There is a fence post near the 3 mile mark that needs replaced. Bill reported that he placed an "Emergency Vehicle Only" sign was placed near the pavilion at the winery end to reduce unauthorized traffic.

18ft and 33ft telephone poles are available to be used for parking lot edging, Dick to follow up with Tracy when we determine how to move them.

The commemorative bridge plaques for Keith Mink and the Oliver bridge are in, Bill to follow with installation.

We have lost a trail supporter, Dave Thayer, who passed away. He mowed the area around the Krider trailhead. We need to think about who might be available to take on some mowing there.

Cam reported to Bill that after inspection the wood on the 2nd bridge looks pretty sound and it might just need some shims to correct the "bouncy" wood.

Trail by Bean's asphalt: No further updates, still evaluating best approach to preserve the trail surface.

Conneaut Lake End court decision: A decision has been given in Crawford County court regarding a landowner's desire to stop use of the trail near the winery entrance. The decision was favorable to

the trail and indicated that it will remain open to general use. It was notable that the judge commented that the trail was a “gem” of the community. (The landowner does have 30 days to file an appeal.) Thanks to Calvin for taking this on.

Tunnel under Rt. 19 PennDot has communicated that they are considering a “leveling” operation on Rt 19 near the trail crossing. This would be to improve the sight line there and help prevent flooding on the lower laying area by shifting the fill material that was placed when the previous tunnel was removed. If that comes about it would be an ideal time to place our trail tunnel under 19 since the road would be closed and equipment would already be on site. Brian McNulty from PennDot will be at a meeting on 8/26 to explore how we might coordinate. (At this time all of this is just discussion, there are no firm plans in place.)

Grants: No further reports other than the possible “TA-Set aside” that we might apply for again for the tunnel project, but we will need more information from PennDot about the possible Rt 19 project before doing anything.

Bike Rentals: No report

Other business: Jerry commented that we need to publicize the role we are playing in the maintenance of the Bessemer Street trail. Our agreement with EPACC indicates that we have naming rights, but it might be confusing if we just say it is part of the Ernst trail since they are not currently connected and it might mislead people not from the area into thinking that it is the entire Ernst trail. We will discuss at next meeting.

There will be 5K race this Saturday starting at Bean’s, and sponsored by McGill Power and Bell. Jerry plans to be there with a table and trail materials at 8am, if anyone else is able please come as well. (They have been generous donors).

Speaker for Annual meeting in November: A suggestion was made to invite Terry Lobdell, who is a local expert on bats, how they impact the environment and how we can help them thrive along the trail. Everyone appeared to be on board with that idea so Bill will see if he is available.

Next meeting will be Sept 9th, 2025 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed.

Meeting adjourned 8. Submitted by Ed Easley