

FCRT Board Meeting September 9, 2025, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Marci Finton Bill Dross Sherry Mason Wally Mason Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Tom Kennedy Jean Weber Brian Weber Susan Miller Mark Miller Cameron Guffey Bill Eldridge Chris Adsit Bill McComas

Financial Report: Jerry sent before the meeting. Dick reviewed at the meeting. No significant bills are due. This was the first report with the combined accounts of Maintenance and General accounts.

The Winslow grant application will be due October 1st, we could will seek funding for the handicap parking spot at Bean's. Jerry will complete the application.

Kim Davison presented her application for an event on the Trail Nov 30. She was able to procure insurance; we agreed to her application.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: Peter and Bill D met with Steve Halmi about the route from Shippen St to PA Ave. Steve will work up an engineering quote. Mark M reported that Hydroblox property has been taken off the sheriff sale due to investors. The route from PA Ave to Bicentennial Park still needs to be decided.

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 where the trail will be on the east lane is mostly paved. Mark reported that where the trail crosses side roads, it curves sharply so users have no choice but to slow down to look for traffic to cross. The Bessemer trail maintenance is proceeding well with the work release group being supervised by Jim DuPont. Ed will ask if the work release crew could remove leaves as the season progresses.

Trail Maintenance: Bill reported the fence post near the 3 mile mark has been replaced. 18ft and 33ft telephone poles are available to be used for parking lot edging or other purposes at the Winery end from Tracy Tome. Calvin suggested using them at Bailey Rd parking area. The downspout at the bird watching station has been extended to reduce the erosion. Cam reported that after inspection the wood on the 2nd bridge looks pretty sound and it might just need some shims to correct the "bouncy" wood plus some deck boards on bridge 3 will need to be replaced.

Cameron put in a trash receptacle at the benches behind Post with a small opening so users will not fill with household waste.

Leaves are starting to fall so anyone who is able to blow off the trail is encouraged to do so.

A workday will need to be scheduled to remove the tree under the covered bridge before the rains come.

Erik will be working on the remilled asphalt on the access road to Semerad Rd soon.

Trail by Bean's asphalt: Still evaluating best approach to preserve the trail surface. Erik quoted \$5-6000 to add medium rocks at the edge to stabilize for now. Ed will check with Peter about a long term solution and the need for permitting.

Conneaut Lake End : Trimming around the kayak launch is needed. Bill E will follow up.

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 , Bill D, Ed, Tom K, Jean, Calvin met and if federal funds are secured, it will be in PennDOT's 4-5 year plan. A concrete tunnel may cost \$500,000. We may need a sponsor, possibly Zach Norwood.

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: Mike Keeley from Allegheny College met with Bill D, Ed, Tom K, Dave H and Marci to discuss the video of the trail. He will need footage and interviews. He wants part of the message to be that the trail doesn't happen without volunteer hours. He hopes to have it ready for viewing at the first of the year.

Speaker for Annual meeting in November: Bill said that Terry Lobdell, who is a local expert on bats, how they impact the environment and how we can help them thrive along the trail will be the speaker. The meeting will be on Wednesday Nov 12, 5:30 at The Iroquois Boating and Fishing Club at Conneaut Lake. Please RSVP to Sherry – sherry@sgprinting@windstream.net. She will send out the cost of the dinner when she finalizes the menu, please pre-pay. Marci will send invitations to the local representatives.

Next meeting will be October 14th, 2025 7:00 at Ernst Conservation Seed.

Meeting adjourned 8:20. Submitted by Marci Finton