

FCRT Board Meeting January 13, 2026, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Marci Finton Bill Dross(via zoom) Sherry Mason Wally Mason
Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Tom Kennedy Dave Hotchkiss Susan Miller Mark Miller Bill Eldridge
Chris Adsit Erik Kulasa Kathy Kulasa Dennie Finton Chris and Wendy Brindle

Financial Report: Jerry sent before the meeting Marci reviewed at meeting. Jerry also sent a Yearly summary.

Election of Officers: President Dick Eglinton, VP Ed Easley, Treasurer Jerry Boyle, Secretary Marci Finton. No nominations from the floor. Sherry Mason motioned to accept the slate of officers, Dave Hotchkiss seconded, motion passed.

Trail Blazer July 12, 2026: Start times are the same as last year, 7:30 for the 15K, 7:35 5K. Susan confirmed a contract with Wolf Creek Timing. The race course will be the same as last year utilizing the newer part of the trail for the 15 K, keeping the 5k the same as past years.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: No news. We are waiting to see if the City of Meadville will be hiring a coordinator. Dick has not heard back from Post about the possible parking area at Shippen St.

Parkway trail: Bill Dross motioned to call the portion of the trail PennDOT is working on, the Parkway Trail, Susan Miller seconded, motion passed. Brian Trace had previously indicated an interest in providing mowing on the Parkway Trail, Dick E will contact him when the weather clears. Signage will be needed.

Bessemer Trail: Jim Dupont is willing to coordinate mowing again in 2026, not sure where equipment will be stored.

Trail Maintenance: Christopher Nuzback offered to plow the trail west of 79, Mercer Pike to Krider Rd. Dick will caution him about the asphalt lifted by tree roots and will give him the bollard combination. Springtime will bring more projects. Tom Wilson is willing to check over bridges when the weather clears. We will see how the fence holds the asphalt sliding toward Home Depot's retention pond during the winter season.

We received \$1000 from the Winslow Grant for a paved handicap spot at the Bean's trail head. Jerry applied to CHCF for the remainder of funds.

Conneaut Lake End : Kathy Kulasa reports several trees down between the Winery and McMichael Rd. She and Erik will take care of when the weather permits.. Calvin reported that there will be a lot of work to be done to keep the brush back around the parking lot and touching up the new pavilion may be needed. The handicap ramp installations for the pavilion and bird watching station should wait until paving is done. In addition, we need to clear the brush across from the trail from the pavilion and along the canal to create a vista of the swamp. There's a need to stabilize the railroad bed between Brown Hill Road and the bird observation station. There are several big trees that need to be removed before putting down asphalt to prevent the roots penetrating through it. With the spring thaw, Calvin plans to move the derelict pontoon boat to a location further down the trail for better kayak launching.

Quiring gave a rough estimate of \$200,000 per mile to pave.

Bill Eldridge and Dennie Finton went to Franklin to hear Katie Wickert, the new PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Regional Advisor for Northwest PA. They will follow up with her to get a meeting to discuss short term grants and DCED grants.

Dennie will see if he can find someone to construct the kiosk at the CL Trailhead. Carter Lumber is still willing to donate the supplies.

Chris and Wendy Brindle are willing to help establish a maintenance group in Conneaut Lake.

Tunnel under Rt. 19: no report

Grants: Bill Eldridge and Dennie Finton will be pursuing leads from Katie Wicker. Ed Easley reported there is no money to disperse from the CC Act 13 Account this year.

Bike Rentals: no report

Other business: Jerry reported that we should get our By-Laws updated. There is nothing specific in them about new easements. Calvin pointed out that the easements refer to 1995 edition. Our current edition is 2010 and if we do an update the edition will be 2026. It would be good to have the current edition referenced in any new documents. Dave Hotchkiss and Jerry will discuss and present proposed changes at the February meeting.

Next meeting will be February 10, 2026, 7pm Ernst Conservation Seed, Race committee meeting at 6:15

Meeting adjourned 8:05. Submitted by Marci Finton