

FCRT Board Meeting March 10, 2026, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle (via zoom) Marci Finton Bill Dross(via zoom) Sherry Mason Wally Mason Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Tom Kennedy Jean and Brian Weber Dave Hotchkiss Peter Oven Susan Miller Mark Miller Cameron Guffey Bill Eldridge Marcel and Samantha Moody Chris Adsit Erik Kulasa Kathy Kulasa Bill McComas David Steele

Financial Report: Jerry sent before the meeting and reviewed at meeting.

Update of By-laws: See separate meeting notes.

Trail Blazer July 12, 2026: Start times are the same as last year, 7:30 for the 15K, 7:35 5K. Sherry is updating the race posters and sponsorship commitment forms. FCRTs old email was on the previous documents. Susan reported we have 5 participants signed up so far. Members are reminded to bring yard signs so Sherry can update those. Members are encouraged to start soliciting sponsors. Tshirts will probably be teal this year.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: No news. We are waiting to see if the City of Meadville will be hiring coordinator. Samantha Travis replaced Zach Norwood as new Crawford County Planning Office director. Ed E, Bill E and Dennie will schedule a meeting with Sam Travis to gather information.

Parkway trail: A clarification from last month, Dick reported that Trace Landscaping is not interested in VOLUNTEERING the mowing. Trace gave a quote of \$248 per mowing. Discussion of paying for this service lead to a decision to try to find volunteers to mow. FCRT should not be paying for routine services such as this due to setting a negative precedent. When the county releases the trail to our care, we can advertise on FB for volunteers. Peter reported he met with City Council about access through the closed Race St section from Terrace St. He will draw up a proposal.

Bessemer Trail: no report. Ed will call Jim Dupont about the continuation of mowing from work release participants.

Trail Maintenance: Christopher Nuzback continued plowing the trail west of 79, Mercer Pike to Krider Rd.

There is still mud on the connector and is slippery when it gets wet. Last year, removal of the mud after it dried was difficult. Different means to remove the mud needs to be considered. Watch for Flooding signs were installed on the Connector. Stop sign on Mt Pleasant Rd needs to be repaired. Tom Wilson will inspect the bridges when he gets back. Bill D called G&J Fencing for a quote to see if a fence can be installed through the asphalt next to HD retention pond where the snow fence is for something more permanent. Spring clean up is almost ready to be addressed. Bill will send an email to the Adopt A Trail volunteers. Gary Worthington has been asked to design some interpretive signs explaining the timbers on the canal bed near the Oliver Bridge.

We received \$1000 from the Winslow Grant for a paved handicap spot at Bean's trail head. Jerry applied to CHCF for the remainder of funds; we are still waiting to hear. A decision on where the spot should be needs to be made.

Bill McComas said he will see if he can get his mower to the Kiwanis Pavilion to mow this year.

Tunnel under Rt 19: no news.

Conneaut Lake End : Dennie reported that Wayne Shimmel suggested that instead of a stand alone kiosk, a framed bulletin/information board be made for inside the pavilion. No views would be obstructed. This would be an easier solution plus it would be undercover. Dennie suggested signs near 322 on Coleman Dr with the FCRT logo and smaller signs at the road crossings of McMichael Rd and Brown Hill Rd. He will pursue.

The condition of Coleman Dr was discussed. Erik K and Dennie will investigate options to improve the surface.

Grants: Bill Eldridge and Dennie Finton will be pursuing leads from Katie Wickert.

A construction company, Glen O Hawbaker has suggested we apply for a grant from their annual golf outing. Ed will fill out the appropriate paperwork.

Bike Rentals: no report

Other business: Sherry reported the walks with Jan Hyatt will start March 21, 9:30-11am. These walks raise funds for the city parks programs.

Peter reported that he spoke with with David Washousky, from the Trust for Public Land (TPL). He may be able to help with the pathway through Kerrtown in another year or 2.

National Rail to Trails Day is April 25. Susan has agreed to have a table stationed at Bean's Trail Head with water, brochures and answer questions. Keith and Dave H will be able to help also. We will advertise on FB and possibly the Meadville Tribune.

Meeting adjourned 8:28. Submitted by Marci Finton

Next meeting will be April 14 2026, 7pm Ernst Conservation Seed, Race committee meeting at 6:15