

FCRT Board Meeting July 7, 2026, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle Marci Finton Bill Dross Sherry Mason Wally Mason

Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Dave Hotchkiss Susan Miller Cameron Guffey Bill Eldridge Marcel Moody Chris Adsit

Karen Fabian Bill McComas David Steele Brad Stallsmith Mike and Krista Geagan

Financial Report: Jerry sent before the meeting and reviewed at meeting. Bills to be paid: Creative Imprints-shirts for TB, Powells's \$475 for race units, Powell's regular monthly payment.

Trail Blazer July 12, 2026: Start times are the same as last year, 7:30 for the 15K, 7:35 5K. Susan reported we have 134 participants signed up so far, we should expect 30-40 new sign ups on race day according to previous years. A workday is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 5:00 at Bean's Trailhead with a rain date of July 9. Trucks with volunteers in the beds to trim low branches and clearing debris will be the main focus.

Volunteers should be at Ernst Conservation Seed 5:30-6 am race day. Susan will supply watermelon and bananas for after the race. Marci, Leeann, Betty and whoever else wants to will supply cookies (no nuts in the cookies). There will be a Post-race meeting July 20th 6:30, Marci's house.

Spring Support – Membership letter: YTD \$7245

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: no news

Parkway trail: 9 volunteers will rotate to mow this season.

Bessemer Trail: The mowing is being done.

Trail Maintenance: The new 4'x6' maps have been installed. QR codes with the trail map have been placed on the signs.

Mark Miller and Bill got stronger fencing to put on the posts at the HD retention pond.

There are several areas of lifted asphalt from tree roots. Cutting the roots at the side of the trail may be a solution to arrest lifting. Possible removing asphalt, removing roots then cold patch on the severe areas. Dick E, Bill D and Erik will meet to discuss asphalt and ditch clean out. David Steele will paint the worst areas of lifted asphalt.

Bill discussed the placement of a concrete handicapped parking area at Bean's Trail Head. Dick talked to Brian Bean about placing it on his property so that the parking area connects to the paved trail. To make the area large enough for 2 spots, a quote of \$9300 was received. Bill Dross motioned to use general funds to add to the grant money to reach the cost of the project. Cameron seconded, motion passed.

New abrasive tape on the approaches on the Dross Bridge will be placed before the race.

A hole and stump need to be marked to prevent accidents.

A lot of the post/wire fencing has been damaged due to downed trees. Bill will assess for repair or removal.

Discussion to have a sign/post located at various points along the trail with a QR code to report downed trees, trail damage and other issues was held. Concern that users may use for medical emergencies was addressed. We will not place along the trail at this time.

Tunnel under Rt 19: no news

Conneaut Lake End : The township offered a grader and operator to improve parking lot and Coleman Dr tar and chip project. Millings needed may be donated from a nearby project. Suite-Kote would complete the project if/when millings are available. Jerry motioned to approve the work from Suite-Kote, Dave Hotchkiss seconded, motion passed.

In the event we receive the grant, Bill Eldridge reported that we may not be able to complete the paving in 2026 due to requirements with nestings and other guidelines. He reminded us that FCRT will pay for the work then request reimbursement from the grant.

Dennie Finton requested funds for Wilson Engineering to do the final construction designs. These designs can be used for various projects through the years. Jerry motioned to ask Wilson Engineering to spend up to \$10K to get the final designs completed, Bill D seconded, motion passed.

Robert Fischer, a newer CL Volunteer, and his son painted the pavilion at the trail head.

Grants: no report.

Bike Rentals: CATA bikes are at the Beans and Conneaut Lake trail heads, ready for rental. Tim requests we advertise on our website and Facebook for them.

Other business:

Reminder of trail events: July 12 - Trail Blazer, August 9 – Trail to Recovery event.

Meeting adjourned 8:02. Submitted by Marci Finton

Next meeting will be August 11, 2026, 7pm Ernst Conservation Seed