

FCRT Board Meeting August 11, 2026, at Ernst Conservation Seed

Attending were: Dick Eglinton Ed Easley Jerry Boyle Marci Finton Bill Dross Sherry Mason Calvin Ernst Tom Maxeiner Keith Knighton Dave Peter Oven Susan Miller Mark Miller Bill Eldridge Marcel Moody Chris Adsit Karen Fabian Bill McComas Dennie Finton David Steele Brad Stallsmith Mike and Krista Geagan Robert Fischer

Financial Report: Jerry sent before the meeting and reviewed at meeting. Bills to be paid: \$540 Powell's regular monthly payment, various signs \$1237, CCARS \$175 donation for helping at TB, Oliver Bridge Sign \$812. Jerry motioned to pay the bills, Ed seconded, motion passed.

Trail Blazer July 12, 2026: Jerry reported our net income from the race was \$9654 which is the most so far. Susan reported on the post-race meeting. Demographics: 170 registered, ages 6-86, 31 cities in PA, 8 different states. Discussion on Wolf Creek Timing services and survey results she sent out were the main topic. Ratings were 4.8/5 stars. Susan has signed a contract with Wolf Creek for 2027.

Things to consider for next year:

More porta-johns at the facility

Water at the 15K turnaround

Codes for sponsors to sign up their "free" registrations

Advertise awards time, "8:30 5k awards ceremony"

Readjust age groups, have more

Spring Support – Membership letter: YTD \$7345. Jerry will revise the Fall Maintenance Letter.

Shippen St to Bicentennial Park: no news

Parkway trail: 9 volunteers rotate mowing this season. Brad S reported the rough conditions PennDOT in which left the sides of the trail are difficult to mow with a yard mower. He suggested a sickle bar mower would be easier.

Bessemer Trail: The mowing is being done.

Trail Maintenance: Bill D reported the continuation of the fence near the Oliver Bridge would be 90-91'. Calvin and Bill will meet to be sure property lines are respected.

The concrete handicapped parking area at Bean's Trail Head will be completed by haf.AST as weather permits.

A hole and stump were repaired by Calvin.

Handles were added onto the weed whackers to make them easier to use.

New lumber on the decks of some of the bridges will be placed soon. Ed and Tom Wilson plan to meet 8/19 for bridge inspections.

Erik still plans on cleaning ditches and cutting roots.

Tunnel under Rt 19: Calvin, Dennie F, Parke Wentling and reps from PennDOT met in Erie to view a tunnel Mekis Construction built under I-90. Mekis is a design-build company. A meeting will be scheduled soon for them to see our project site.

Conneaut Lake End : Millings were delivered and Dave and Jill Hubbard graded the millings on the parking lot and Coleman Dr. Suite-Kote will complete the project next week. A skid steer and roller

were donated from a friend of Erik K. Dennie F motioned to give a \$300 gift card to Ryan Ales who delivered the equipment and to pay Shields Paving \$3000 for the millings from the paving funds.

Susan seconded, motion passed.

Steve Cooper from Suite-Kote presented an option for a permanent surface on the trail slightly different from asphalt paving.

No news on the grant decision.

Robert Fischer, a newer CL Volunteer, requested a bike repair station/pump at the CL trailhead. He would split the cost with FCRT. Discussion on the need and stability of a pump were discussed. He will pursue options.

Commercial Turf quoted \$2696 to spray 14' wide from CL trailhead to Johnson Rd to prepare for paving.

Dennie reported Conneaut Lake Fire Department wishes to do a training exercise on the trail with their Argo, which is a vehicle suited for swampy areas for rescues. Discussion was held and permission was granted. The date will be circulated when scheduled.

Grants: Ed reported we did not get awarded the Glen O Hawbaker grant.

Bike Rentals: CATA bikes are at the Beans and Conneaut Lake trail heads, ready for rental. Tim requested we consider shelters over the bikes. He said CATA is willing to split the cost. Marci will get more information. Tim said the rentals are going well.

Other business:

August 9 – Trail to Recovery event.

A request for a memorial tree at the CL end was received via email. Dennie will get in touch with the person and explain two places that we may approve of a tree planting. FCRT will not incur any costs with this memorial.

Jerry reminded everyone that Crawford Gives is August 19-21 this year.

Marci presented her raffle quilt for approval. Calvin offered his staff to sell tickets at the CC Fair again this year.

Marci reported an option for FCRT to sell shirts through Creative Imprints on-line store. She asked for volunteers to head up the decision-making process.

Peter reported that Allegheny College paid for 10 benches for the Parkway Trail, one of them has been installed by Peter and student volunteers from AC. He also reported of a partnership of FCRT, AC and the City to clear an access on a closed portion of Race St from Terrace St to the Parkway Trail. He presented a Trail Maintenance and access Agreement. Dave Hotchkiss will review.

Peter was contacted by TLC Ins for permission to use a photo of the covered bridge in their advertising. Ernst Trail would get recognition. Discussion was held and it was decided that we should not be recognized due to a possible misunderstanding that we are associated with or support TLC Ins.

Jean visited the Bosco Family to discuss their displeasure posted on Facebook about trail users trespassing. The residents she spoke with seemed to not know about the trespassers.

Meeting adjourned 8:45. Submitted by Marci Finton

Next meeting will be September 8, 2026, 7pm Ernst Conservation Seed