

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 10-3-22
Monthly Meeting Minutes **October 3, 2022**

Call to Order

The regular October meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:04pm on 6-6, 2022 by Ron Rich, Chair, in the Community Room at the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Ron Rich, Deb Shakotko, Jessie Anderson, Bill Schneider, Robin Benzinger,

Not Present: Lee Jamison, Jake Samascott, David Kolb

Public: Gail Babirad, Jim DiGioia, Michael Susi, Nolan Robinson

Review September 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes

No corrections

Deb moved and Robin seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Reports presented by Deb through May 31, 2022

Opening Balance \$17,990.14

Revenue: \$5,967.00

Expense: \$14,241.52

Closing Balance: \$9,715.62 Reserves: \$7,125.00

Expenses included the benches related to the Parks & Trails NY grant (benches amount was paid in full) and the UTV monthly payment which ends in the middle of 2023. Deb noted that the balance sheet doesn't include online ticket sales on Eventbrite for the October 22 CFET & Rotary Octoberfest fundraiser event and noted that online Oktoberfest sales are slow. Deb noted we are pending our last Greenway grant reimbursement.

Bill moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jessie seconded: Passed.

Membership Report:

Total members: 163

56 individuals

86 families

18 sponsors

3 donors

Nolan Robinson asked where we see our largest sources of membership. Deb & Ron reported the Kinderhook farmers market is a main driver of membership and by comparison many fewer folks join on the cfetny.org website.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Ron reported that mowing is starting to slow with the change of the season. Ron reported that he and Jake completed mowing in Schodack, satisfying our contractual obligation for the year. Their learnings from this recent mow have them considering mowing earlier in the year when weeds are younger and smaller.

Ron reports that incidents running into debris with the flail mower continue.

String trimming will continue for another two weeks.

Bill asked whether there will be one additional mow and Ron answered potentially, depending on the location.

Benches Grant

Ron reports he received a delivery date for the benches funded by the Parks & Trails NY grant, for December 22, 2022. The benches will be stored at the Samascott's farm until they can be installed (September deadline). The second half of this grant money is expected in six months.

Ron reports that Parks & Trails NY notified him of a new grant cycle with double last year's available funding. Applications are due December 9. The board and members of the public attendees discussed potential uses like a feasibility study for a connector to the Lindenwald Trails, a similar study for a connector to the Kinderhook Town Park, educational programs with local libraries and a trifold brochure and corresponding online content to promote CFET/plan-your-visit with potential tie ins for local business. Ron reports that Parks & Trails NY advised against the Lindenwald Trail connector feasibility study as the area includes private vs municipal properties.

Robin noted the quality of the Columbia County Historical Society's driving tours and suggested CCHS and/or Ann Birkmeyer may be helpful in compiling our trifold brochure/plan-your-visit content. Ron noted that Pro Printers has staff to compile this content as well. Robin volunteered to coordinate content for this brochure and Ron shared his Pro Printers contact with her.

Ron noted that Parks & Trails NY pays for 90% of approved grant expenses and while CFET is responsible for 10%, half of that can be in-kind services.

Events

Robin reported she met with the director of the Kinderhook library, Matt Pavloff, about displaying our traveling interpretive panels and hosting an event with historian Matt Kierstead. Matt Pavloff is tentatively targeting the late January to March timeframe and is reaching out to Matt Kierstead to discuss further.

Ron noted that he stores the traveling interpretive panels at his home and would need to drop them off at the Kinderhook Library before he leaves town on January 10.

Oktoberfest ticket sales continue. Jessie volunteered to sell CFET shirts at the event and suggested we extend the member's price to Oktoberfest ticket holders.

Strategic Plan

Ron reminded board members of the CFET strategic plan's committee component and proposed simplifying to three committees, each led by a board member: 1. Volunteers & Maintenance, 2. Membership & Development, 3. PR & Social Media. Michael Susi volunteered to join the Volunteers & Maintenance committee and Deb volunteered to lead Membership & Development. Ron encouraged the group to review the set of committee tasks outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Public Comments: Gail Babirad noted that the yellow building near the old Valatie Trolley depot sold.

Adjournment: Jessie motioned, Bill seconded; Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm

Next Meeting

Next Meeting, Monday November 7, 2022 at KML. Entrance on Sylvester Street. Masks are optional.