Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail

# Board Meeting Minutes

# January 4, 2021

## Opening

The regular meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at approximately 6:50PM on January 4, 2021 in a virtual Google meeting by chair, Ron Rich.

## Attendance

Since this virtual meeting began directly after the CFET annual meeting, several members joined the board for the meeting. The following were in attendance for at least a portion of this board meeting: Ron Rich, Jake Samascott, Jerry Callahan, Deb Shakotko, Dave Kolb, Robin Benziger, Paul Webber, Bill Schneider, Lee Jamison, Elizabeth Hendler, Mark Brown, Mary Margaret Cronin, Michael Susi.

**Review December 7, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of this meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry Callahan, seconded by Paul Webber.

## Treasurer and Budget Status Report

The December Treasurer’s report and budget status (attached) were approved on a motion by Deb, seconded by Ron.

## Membership Report

Ron reported 45 individual, 59 family, and 12 sponsor members for a total of 116.

## Board Election of Officers

Ron noted that board officers are elected in January following appointment of new board members at the annual meeting. Present officers are Ron Rich, President, Jake Samascott, Vice President, Jerry Callahan, Treasurer, and Deb Shakotko, Secretary. All present officers indicated willingness to continue to serve. Jerry noted he would be stepping down as Treasurer in July since his board term ends next January, to allow sufficient overlap with a new Treasurer. Robin made a motion to re-elect the slate, which was seconded by Dave, and approved.

## By-Laws Amendment

The by-law amendment #1 presented at the last board meeting, to simplify bill payment of budgeted items, was approved on a motion by Jake, seconded by Jerry.

## Trail Opening

The Governor announced the official opening of the Empire State Trail including the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail on December 30. A small dedication ceremony was held at the Village of Nassau trailhead on January 1st with Ron representing CFET.

## Training and Maintenance Committee Report

The Greenway has indicated they will work with us to obtain an equipment storage shed which is planned to be placed on National Grid property at the Niverville trailhead. Ron reported that he is hopeful we will be successful in also securing a storage container location in Stockport.

## UTV Acquisition and Loan

Ron recommended we proceed with the purchase of a Kawasaki 4010 Trans UTV at a cost of $11,497.95 from Dutchess Recreational Vehicles, the lowest bidder., A $500 deposit is required. Allison Rich (Ron’s daughter) is willing to provide an $11,000 no interest two-year loan to CFET for purchase of the UTV. The loan is contingent upon execution of a promissory note. CFET expects to service the loan through Greenway grant funds as a reimbursable expense. Jerry made a motion to approve the $500 deposit and to proceed with procuring the promissory note, which will be reviewed and approved at a future meeting. Jake seconded this motion and it was approved.

## Strategic Planning Committee Report

Robin reported the first meeting of this committee was held and a survey to board members would be forthcoming in the next days. Jerry suggested including a financial component to the plan and that it was his hope that we would in future be able to create a 4-5 year financial plan for CFET.

## Member Questions

Mark Browne offered to help with the strategic planning process. Signage directing trail users to local points of interest or businesses was discussed, as well as the usage of barcode symbols pointing to website(s) with information that could be easily updated. Dave indicated he would be happy to help Ron with trail promotion through our Facebook page.

## Next Meeting

The next board meeting will again be held virtually, On Monday, February 1, at 6PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

| Minutes submitted by: | Deb Shakotko |
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| Approved by: | Name |