Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail

# Meeting Minutes

# May 3, 2021

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:05PM on May 3, 2021, a Google virtual meeting, by Ron Rich, Chair.

## Present

Board members: Ron Rich, Jake Samascott, Jerry Callahan, Deb Shakotko, Dave Kolb, Lee Jamison, Lisa Hendler. Not present: Robin Benziger, Paul Webber.

## Review April 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of above meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry, seconded by Jake.

## Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

See attached reports dated May 1, 2021. Jerry mentioned that we continue to be below budget on membership dues. These reports were approved on a motion by Deb, seconded by Lee.

## Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Jake reported that the entire trail has been mowed this spring and took approx. 23 hours. He expects this time will decrease as we become more familiar with the sections we mow. Jake reports a good turnout of our trained volunteers for string trimming. Last weekend, four different crews each worked a two hour shift. There was some discussion about our approach to knotweed control along the trail.

Ron reported that the Niverville equipment storage garage is expected to take 8-10 weeks to build, and that the Stockport equipment storage location pad is in place. Ron requested approval for $4500 to purchase a shipping container to be used for the Stockport location. A motion was made by Jerry to permit Ron to purchase this container, not to exceed $4500. Dave seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

## Membership Report

Ron reports 122 total members, with four renewals and one new member this month.

## Strategic Planning Committee Report

In Robin’s absence, Deb reported that the committee was developing target dates for tactics to accomplish the short, intermediate, and long term goals. Following this, Jessica will draft a report which will be reviewed by the committee and then presented to the board.

## Web Development Report

We briefly discussed current content of the website and what we might include in the new website. We also discussed our Facebook page. Jake is the current administrator of our FB page and will be granting permission for all board members to be able to post content.

## Grant Updates

Ron will be submitting grant applications to Hudson River Bank Foundation and Community Bank. He reported that we have been granted $100 by the Bank of Greene County.

## Earth Day Debrief

Dave reported a very successful Earth Day cleanup along the trail by the Valatie and Kinderhook Boy Scouts. About 1000 lbs of trash was collected. Many thanks to Dave Kolb, the Boy Scouts, and volunteers who helped with the cleanup. We hope to expand this effort in future to other town Scout troops and other volunteer groups who might adopt an area of the trail for cleanup.

## Fall Fundraiser Planning

Ron reported that Robin has volunteered to head up a committee to plan an Oktober Fest. Robin will be getting this planning group together to begin discussions with the Rotary, agree a location, etc.

## Other Business

Robin was contacted by the Hudson Library History Room, who are interested in displaying the history of the Electric Trail. Lee mentioned there have been some trail parking complaints in Stuyvesant and the town is considering a “no parking on town roads” regulation. Jerry reported that he has been working with Deb on the transition of the Treasurer responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

## Next Meeting

Next meeting is on Monday, June 7, 2021, 6PM, a Google virtual meeting. Jake will send out a link prior to the meeting.

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