

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 6-5-23
Monthly Meeting Minutes **June 5, 2023**

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:00pm on June 5, 2023 by Ron Rich, Chair, in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Ron Rich, Jake Samascott, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Nolan Robinson, Bill Schneider, Deb Shakotko,

Not Present: Michael Susi, David Kolb,

Public: Jim DiGioia

Review June 5, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Bill moved and Deb seconded to approve : Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Written Report distributed earlier by Deb thru May 31, 2023

Opening Balance \$34,170.03

Revenue \$2217.16

Expenses \$1070.25

Closing Balance \$35, 316.94 Total with Reserves:\$37, 816.94

Income from memberships, new sponsor, Taco Diablo in Nassau and merchandise sales

A thank you to the Bakler Fund which will be granting \$5,000

Jake moved to approve both month's reports, Jessie seconded: Passed.

There was a question later in the meeting as to whether the Town of Stuyvesant repeated their \$500 annual contribution. Deb and Nolan will follow up.

Membership Report

Membership : Nolan reported 125 members renewed; 158 total paid memberships

Micosta in Stottville became a sponsor at \$300

Nolan sent thankyou's to all over \$100

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

The whole trail has now been mowed twice.

Training was conducted for string trimmers for 6 volunteers. Kevin Gilrain is a new trainee.

Two trimming crews exceeded recharging battery capacity. Rapid chargers have been purchased for \$450.

Ron noted that the current trailer can't accommodate the two mowers. He will explore trading up.

Niverville storage area needs to be modified for easier access with trailer.

Events:

History Night: Matt Kirstead (interpretive panel designer and historian) is presenting at the East Greenbush Library on 10-22-23 at 2pm. He agreed to repeat his lecture later in the evening at Valatie Theater at 6:30pm. Jim DiGioia volunteered to help with the event.

Dates for Oktoberfest not yet set with Rotary.

Farmer's Daughter Bike Race on 5-21-23: Rotary called out for volunteer help with serving meals. Ron, Lee, Bill and Jayne Zinke worked serving food. Riders were muddy and hungry!

Grant Updates

Benches: the first bench is installed! More to come.

Farmer's Market

Jessie reported we will be community vendors on 5-13-23 and 9-16-23 at Hudson Farmer's Market. Lee, Nolan and Jessie will cover the Hudson booth on 5-13-23. We picked up new members. We need more trail maps! We also could use an informational trifold. The map could be on one side. Jessie will contact Don Meltz for help with a map. We'd like to include GIS for trail heads, distances, bench locations as these are frequent questions.

Kinderhook Farmers Market scheduled for 6-1-23. OK5K will be 6-10-23 with Ron working. Jessie and Lee can cover. We note the interpretive panel displays are a draw for foot traffic to our tent..

Public Comments:

Jim mentioned a neighbor on Rothermel complained about brush. They are directed to speak with the Village of Kinderhook as that is the section maintained by the Village.

Ron reported that Dave Booth of North Chatham is concerned that people accessing parking at that trail head are cutting over his lawn. We note that it is a confusing intersection. Ron suggests we keep the brush there trimmed back as best we can.

Kathy Schneider via Bill suggested we have a photo contest of images on the Trail, offering prizes and possibly a show as part of a Fair exhibit.

Adjournment: Dave moved, Jessie seconded; Meeting adjourned 6:58 pm

Next Meeting

We will meet Monday July 10, 2023 at 6pm (due to July 4th holiday). At Kinderhook Memorial Library Community Room. Entrance on Sylvester Street. **Masks optional.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison