

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 11-6-23 Monthly Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:02pm on October 16, 2023 by Ron Rich, Chair, in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Ron Rich, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Michael Susi,
Bill Schneider, Jake Samascott, David Kolb, Deb Shakotko,
Not Present: Nolan Robinson,
Public: Kevin Gilrain, Mike Foote, Jim Di Gioia, Mackenzie Samascott

Review October 16, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Deb moved and Jake seconded to approve : Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb gave treasurer's report through October 31, 2023
Opening Balance \$30,546.98
Revenue \$825
Expenses \$1278.57
Closing Balance: \$34,966.41 Total with Reserves: \$ 42,466.41
Income from Oktoberfest will be split with Rotary and noted in November's report.
NYS Parks and Trails Grant for the benches is spent and closed out.
Greenway Grant to be filed. Deadline in March.
Jake moved to approve and Dave seconded: Passed.

Membership Report

Jake has looked into an online account system that is fee free for tracking memberships, donations, tickets, names: "Zeffy". We will try it out.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin gave report for crews: Mowing is done for the season, new Zero-turn mowers worked well, Equipment to be winterized and stored. Colarusso continues with erosion repairs to Trail. One hedge trimmer purchased.

Events:

Oktoberfest 21, 2023: 275 dinners sold We anticipate having made about \$2400 each for CFET and Rotary.

History Night: Matt Kierstead lectured 10-22-23 6:30pm Valatie. 75 people attended.

Grant Updates

Ron and Deb will work on next Greenway Grant

Transitions:

Ron has officially announced he will retire as President as of 12-31-2023 but will continue as a volunteer, specifically to run the flail mower and do equipment maintenance.
Kevin and Mike will coordinate crew scheduling and mowing assignments by territories

Bill to strategize efficient storage for 4 mowers, ie 2 Stockport, 2 Niverville, trailer at Samascott's Farm

Kevin will need a credit card for gas purchases

Newsletter: Anne Shaefer can do graphics and layout but we need a writer . We want to hilight events, note 165 volunteer hours and give reminders for membership renewals.

Overlook Park Sign at Stuyvesant Falls: Bill said the Town of Stuyvesant is willing to formalize the sign if Greenway approves. Trail users seem to be enjoying this pleasant scenic "detour".

Public Comments:

Jim DiGioia expressed thanks to volunteer crews!

We need some signage reminding that there is no horses or horseback riding on the trail

Executive Session: Entered to discuss personnel matters.

8:08 pm Jessie moved and Jake seconded move to Executive Session.

8:48 pm Dave moved and Jessie seconded close of Executive Session

Adjournment: Dave moved, Jessie seconded; Meeting adjourned 8:48 pm

Next Meeting

(Since Ron will be away 11-14 to 12-6, we discussed moving the meeting date to 12-11 but later learned that the Friends of the Library now meets on the 2nd Monday at 6:30pm. This will impact our January 2024 Meeting.)

We will meet Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6pm. At Kinderhook Memorial Library Community Room. Entrance on Sylvester Street. **Masks optional.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison