

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) approved as corrected 11-1-21 lfj

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:04pm on October 4, 2021 by Ron Rich, Chair in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Robin Benziger, Lee Jamison, Jake Samascott, Deb Shakotko, Ron Rich, David Kolb,
Not Present: Paul Webber (resigned), Jerry Callahan, Lisa Hendler (resigned)
Public: Jessie Anderson, Mark Browne, Joan Curcio, Jim Dijoia

Review September 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Deb moved and Robin seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Reports presented by Deb thru September 30, 2021. Reports attached and distributed prior to meeting.

Opening Balance \$18,931.00

Revenue \$2,367.50

Expense \$1,099.57

Closing Balance \$20,198.93

Deb notes Solasus bill for website will appear next month. Income has been membership, donations, \$1242 has come in for Oktoberfest tickets.

Jake moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dave seconded, passed.

Membership Report

Ron reports 168 members: 68 individuals, 86 families, 14 sponsors

There were 7 new members; 5 individuals, 2 new family memberships. Tabling at the Kinderhook Farmer's Market continues to have been good promotion and public relations but ends on Columbus Weekend. Ron will table at Samascotts the next Saturday to sell Oktoberfest tickets.

Board Changes

Ron reports that Lisa Hendler wishes to resign leaving an unexpired year and Paul Webber resigned leaving 2 years in his term. All full terms are 3years. Jerry Callahan will retire as of the Annual Meeting in January 2022. Dave moved and Deb seconded that we accept the resignations. Ron will be away for the November Meeting which will be chaired by Jake Samascott.

New Standing Committees

Per the recommendations of the Strategic Plan; it was moved that we form 6 Standing Committees.

Due to recent resignations, Ron suggested the following combined Committees:

Finance and Development: Deb and Jerry

Stewardship (Maintenance crew, volunteers, training): Jake

PR/Events/Members: Robin, Jessie

Jake moved and Robin seconded to approve; passed

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Ron reports that the Greenway had approved the purchase of a John Deere diesel tractor with a flail arm mower for \$31,000.

Schodack AHET Mowing. CFET agrees it will utilize the Equipment to cut vegetation once per year next to the trail shoulders on the AHET segment in the Town of Schodack, from Miller Road south to the Schodack/Village of Nassau Border. The first annual mowing shall occur in calendar year 2022. CFET shall coordinate with the Rensselaer Land Trust on the logistics of mowing the Schodack section including insurance coverage. Greenway will increase the yearly grant to \$12,500.

Deb moved and Jake seconded that we approve this agreement. Passed. This equipment will fit in the Niverville storage shed. Jake said he can trailer this equipment, if need be. Bill Mancini and Mark Knudsen have been cutting enormous amounts of invasive phragmites along the wetland parts of the trail, especially in Greenport.

Oktoberfest

150 tickets sold thus far. We are hoping for 350 or more. Lee will send announcements to the Columbia Paper and the Register Star.

Robin is organizing volunteers

Web Development Report

The Website is up. We will be Joomla trained on October 12 by Jen from Solasus.

Monthly Meetings will be posted on our Face Book Page

Grant Updates

We have spent the grant from Parks and Trails NY per plan on the Strategic Plan, website development and the artistic Historical Interpretive Panel display (16 Panels).

Public Comments

Mark Browne, Kinderhook Village Trustee, gave feedback on the Village's experience of the first year of its share of maintaining their 3 miles. They too mowed 8 times which was more than expected and due to a wet year. He has also received requests for education on bike safety and trail courtesy.

Next Meeting

Next meeting, Monday November 1, 2021 at 6pm at KML. Entrance on Sylvester Street. Masks required.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Jamison