



# Friends of the Musketawa Trail Board Meeting

Thursday, June 2, 2022

7:00 p.m. Ravenna Village Office  
12090 Crockery Creek Road



Millennium Trail 2000  
National Recreation Trail 2008



## MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting attendance:** Tim Nink, Mark Fritsma, James Smith, Gary DeKock, Paul Boucon, Diana Holovka and Cari Draft  
**Absent:** Oscar Reed, George Czinder and Joan Schmitt  
**Guests:** Greg Sherburn, Jim Kubiak, Char Kluting and Steve Hundersmarck

1. Meeting called to order 7:02pm - Tim Nink, president
2. **Secretary report** : Cari Draft brought treats of frozen grapes and discovered she hadn't brought the April 7, 2021 meeting minutes, grrrr. Approving the minutes is tabled until the next meeting; Cari will email April and June minutes together.
3. **Treasurer report** : Diana Holovka. Our account balance is \$18,517.48 with \$4,015.62 of that in the memorial account. Diana distributed 4-page detail of donations, expenses and income. Motion & second to approve treasurer's report. Unanimously approved.
4. **Correspondence**
  - a. Emails: Tim stated an email was received regarding a misprint on a memorial plaque on a bench for an Eagle scout who passed away in 2009. Tim will request pricing and order from Trophy House.
  - b. Mail correspondence: Diana noted two donations/notes from Ted & Carol Konwinski and Mark & Judy Bross.
5. **Trail Manager Report** from Muskegon County/Greg Sherburn: Greg introduced guest Steve Hundersmarck as the "guy on the trail in the big truck" trimming trees, mowing, painting benches, etc. Steve mentioned concerns of the night use of the Broadway trailhead and has worked out clearing out the overgrowth between the road and parking lot for conservation and/or law enforcement officers to better show a presence. Discussion of multiple sightings of a motorized minibike ripping through the trail, no ID on who that is yet. Greg will touch base with Ottawa County/Kate Alvarez on pouring the concrete pad. Steve also voiced concern regarding an "angel memorial" area near Mill Iron Road that is in disrepair and will replace a dead tree in that area.
6. **Newsletter** : Printing and mailing is complete; thank you to Tim and Diana. Diana noted that costs increased when adding the historical insert, but the board acknowledged it is valuable information, worth the cost. 275 newsletters were mailed. Diana also noted there are about 25 bike shops who receive the newsletter and do not donate; discussion, concluding no action taken, we will leave them on the mailing list for now.
7. **Website** : current newsletter added, as well as the historical article by Joel Mikkelsen. Discussion regarding how many historical spikes are driven into the trail and this information could be added to the website, as well as marked or mentioned at the kiosks near each spike. Noted there are two spikes in the trestle bridge(s) as well as at the Conklin trailhead and the golden spike in Ravenna. **(See end of these minutes for the photos Cari and Mark took of the golden spike after this meeting.)** Tim will ask Joel Mikkelsen for the spike details; Gary will work on spike location and description. Discussion that spikes should be pulled and saved prior to repaving, or their location will be buried and forgotten.

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8. **Current expenditures:** None noted.
9. **New brochure/trail map:** Tim gave Cari three packs of 50 to be distributed at the June 4 Trail Day volunteer event. Many compliments on the brochures and many have been distributed through the trailhead kiosks. More brochures are available for future events.
10. **MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with DNR**
  - a. Board approved the MOU at the April meeting
  - b. Document is now fully approved, signed and on file with the Michigan DNR.

11. **Project list - 2022/pending or future:**

**a.) Completed 2022:**

- i. Ed Holovka Memorial marker/post was installed by Tim Nink and Ron Bragg.
- ii. Volunteer clean-up of the Musketawa Broadway Trailhead was completed.  
Thank you to Cari Draft for organizing this.

**b.) Current/existing 2022:**

- i. Bike repair stations for Conklin/Marne. Repair stations have been ordered and received by Greg at Muskegon State Park. Waiting on DNR to install the concrete pads before installation can commence. This funds/work arrangement is part of the matching grant our group was awarded.
- ii) Volunteer Trails Day in conjunction with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation is Saturday, June 4 from 10am to 2pm. Cari Draft is coordinating this event with Carly Garvelink at the Parks Dept. Our guest Char Kluting noted that there is not much litter along the trail; we may be concentrating our efforts on tree trimming. Guest Jim Kubiak committed to attending the volunteer event.
- iii) Sharon Davis Memorial. Sharon asked that memorial funds be donated to the Friend group. Guest Char Kluting stated the family is organizing a September 11th memorial bike ride; she will get details to Tim for the DNR event application and Greg stated that insurance requirement/fees can be waived. Char is also contacting Padnos to design an artistic bike rack for Conklin, or potentially her nephew's company could fabricate; once a plan is decided, DNR and/or Ottawa County will need to approve before fabrication begins.
- iv) Discussion regarding new t-shirts and/or polos for board members and available for memberships/public. Cari has been in touch with Amy about new designs and proposed to the board that we use a Cafe Press-style service called Printful to create these shirts and other customized items. This is a print-on-demand service, so no inventory investment is required. Cari also mentioned the Muskegon Community College's FAB LAB is interested in working with us on other customized items that we could sell to the public, using their 3D printer, wood burned and glass etcher. Cari will put together a selection for the board to discuss at the August meeting. More urgently, Cari will get prices and shirt styles/colors emailed to the board members within the next few days, specifically hi-viz identifying t-shirts for board members to wear when working on the trail. **"Over 25 years of trail work and still going! A non-profit organization of committed volunteers since 1996"** will be incorporated into the design on those shirts.
- v) Review/update FOTMT Bylaws. Tim completed electronic transfer of original document and gave a printed copy to each board member. Paul Boucon is going to fine-tooth-comb the language and we'll discuss again in August regarding needed updates.

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- v) “Open house” days at the caboose at the Ravenna trailhead discussed again; Gary contacted Bruce Jonas, who suggested Wednesdays. Gary will counter-suggest Saturdays instead, for potentially higher traffic. There are nice displays inside the caboose. Gary will coordinate with Bruce on this project; goal is to have at least a few Saturdays that we can promote as pop-up events for families, etc.

**c.) Future/longer term:**

- i. Ed Holovka Memorial, to be located at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head.  
This topic was discussed previously, and it was decided to wait for a larger install to be incorporated into the trail resurfacing project (idea by Jill Sell - DNR).
- ii. “Open house” days at the caboose at the Ravenna trailhead discussed again; Gary contacted Bruce Jonas, who suggested Wednesdays. Gary will counter-suggest Saturdays instead, for potentially higher traffic. There are nice displays inside the caboose. Gary will coordinate with Bruce on this project; goal is to have at least a few Saturdays that we can promote as pop-up events for families, etc.
- iii. Work on “etiquette/rules” signs for the trail head kiosks. Tim to update first draft to simplify and condense. Tim will get approval from DNR and Ottawa County Parks before finalization.

12. Remaining Friends board meeting dates for 2022: **8/4 & 10/6** (Thursdays at 7PM in Ravenna)

13. Miscellaneous/Other News

- a. Mark: discussed new reflective green & white mile markers
- b. Gary: discussed potential new restrooms; flush toilets, pay toilets

14. **Motion to Adjourn** by Mark, second by James, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cari Draft, Secretary 6/2/22

***The spike at the Ravenna Trailhead***

