



Friends of the Musketawa Trail Board Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 2025

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



*Millennium Trail 2000
National Recreation Trail 2008*



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees: Gary De Kock, Paul Boucon, Mark Fritsma, Diana Holovka, Oscar Reed, George Czinder and Cari Draft

Absent: Tim Nink and James Smith

Guest: Greg Sherburn (Muskegon County DNR)

1. **Meeting called to order 7:02pm :** Gary De Kock, Vice president
2. **Secretary report - Cari Draft :** Meeting minutes from April 3 reviewed; Motion and second to approve as written, including updated Ravenna Trailhead dates. Unanimously approved.
3. **Treasurer report - Diana Holovka :** Diana reviewed her records for us. No questions; Motion & second to approve treasurer's report. Unanimously approved.
4. **Correspondence**
 - a. Emails: Tim can report on emails at next meeting; Diana read one from "Brady" who donated \$5 via PayPal - we reap \$4.41 from PayPal. Diana replied via email to save postage. Diana read Anonymous "complaint" email; group discussed and read Tim's comments. Will discuss at next meeting when Tim is back.
 - b. Mail correspondence: Diana reported no notable mail.
5. **Trail Manager Report from Muskegon County/Greg Sherburn:**

Standard maintenance; Steve is killing weeds and cutting brush daily. He also brush-hogged the overgrown treeline area between the road and parking lot at Broadway trailhead - this seems to be deterring "shady" activity. Greg's team has also assisted Ottawa County with their storm damage tree removal.

Trail Manager Report from Kate Alvarez/Ottawa County: No report this meeting.

DNR Report from Jill Sell: delays due to material availability but is progressing on Ottawa County portion.
6. **Website & Facebook page:** Nothing to note.
7. **Current Expenditures/Reimbursement:** Diana purchased reams of paper and postage seals for newsletter; also League of America membership fee; total to reimburse Diana = \$124.63. Motion & second; Unanimously approved.
8. **Brochure/trail map:**
 - a. Distribution: we have 950 available and need to get these distributed wherever possible; Gary noted that the map and info will be outdated once the trail reconstruction is done.
 - b. Updates will be needed on the new brochures, including sponsors/advertisers. Gary noted Mileage Markers and how the Pioneer Trail map has none. We will discuss when Tim is back at next meeting - potentially consult with central dispatch?
9. **Donation envelopes:** Diana indicated we are ready to order next set of envelopes; discussed wording. Group decided to remove "BUILDING TRAILS" from the envelope.

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10. PROJECT LIST

a.) Completed 2025:

- i. Annual spring cleanup of Broadway Trailhead happened on April 19 @ 8am, Cari reported - she brought treats, Tim/Sheri brought perennial flowers to plant and we transplanted several daffodils from the brush area. Cari had stopped by the trailhead a few days prior and alerted the group that the sign posts had rotted and broke off at the ground; Tim picked up materials so our group was able to repair & remount the sign during our cleanup. One and a half hours and we were all set!

b.) Current 2025 & beyond:

- i. Caboose/Depot "Open House Days" need volunteers to help Gary & Linda in Ravenna. Gary says they will be using the Depot instead of setting up a canopy tent; they'll have maps, water and the donation jar set up. Dates are on Saturdays **June 7, July 12 & August 2**, each day **9 AM to 1 PM**.
- ii. Original Musketawa Trail project sign needs to come down. Tim & James plan to remove the sign; Gary checked posts & attachment method and discussed with Tim.



b.) Future/longer term:

- i. Cari will revise her "**Musketawa Farewell Cruise**" event plan she presented at the August 2024 meeting to be a **celebration of the new pavement**. Ideas for a name: **Pothole-Free Fiesta, Smooth Operator Ride or Asphalt Appreciation Ride**. More discussion of promoting it as a family-style slow-roll type event. Mark suggested making it a Gold Spike Tour II. Plan will remain on "pause" until we know firm construction dates, most likely the ride will be Spring 2026.
 - ii. **Ed Holovka Memorial**, to be located at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. The most updated "shortfall" needed for the project to move forward is \$12,500. Jill Sell (DNR) recommends waiting until trail reconstruction happens to begin project. Also noted, more delays on trail reconstruction with more culvert replacements identified. Official reconstruction dates still unknown. Cari asked about short-term investing the money we have while we wait; discussion indicated non-profit status prevents us from investing.
 - iv. **Last bike repair station** to go along with Ed Holovka Memorial in Muskegon (purchased)
11. Fall 2024/Winter 2025 FOTMT Newsletter is was distributed and PDF is on website.
 12. Remaining Friends Board meeting dates for 2025: **8/7 and 10/2** (*Thursdays at 7PM in Ravenna*)
 13. Gary brought a few copies of Michigan Trails Magazine to share with the group.
 14. Mark asked about our eBike policy so he can share info with the Ionia Trail; eBike signs are up in Ravenna. Greg will ask Steve how many of those signs are up and how many we have in total - he will let us know at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:58pm, seconded and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Cari Draft, Secretary 6/13/25