

FRIENDS OF THE BLUE STAR TRAIL
MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2012 MEETING

Attendees

Jeanne Van Zoeren
Eileen Mead
Maury Decoster
John Adams

Sunny Hill
Jim Van Buren
Mark Ridley
Julie Werkema

Guest: Nancy Owens

President Jeanne Van Zoeren called the meeting to order at 4:35 at the Casco Township Hall.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 28, 2012 were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eileen reported that the balance in the checkbook stands at \$9706.47. A total of \$3800 in donations for the feasibility study was received in the month of July. Breakdown of that figure is:

- \$550 from small businesses
- \$1500 from board members
- \$1750 from individuals.

Year to date donations for the study are:

- \$1000 from corporations,
- \$550 from small businesses,
- \$2250 from community foundations
- \$5,475 from individuals

for a total of \$9275.

Outstanding pledges are \$1000 from board members and \$250 from small businesses. Our Target is \$20000.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jeanne informed the group of the participation of members of the Friends in the Fourth of July parade in Saugatuck. She also attended a presentation at the South Haven library concerning the history of the West Michigan Pike. In addition, she encouraged our attendance at the Casco Township Board of Trustees special meeting on Tuesday, July 31 at 12 Noon to hear Scott Post's presentation concerning the cost of construction of the trail within the township's borders.

She also asked for discussion with regard to membership fees for Friends as a source of operating revenue. To date, board members have been paying out of pocket expenses for printing, signs, buttons, etc. However, in her opinion, the expenses are now in excess of

\$1,000 per annum as the Friends group continues to gain momentum in the Lakeshore community.

Following discussion, a motion to consider amending the current bylaws to add membership fees at our August meeting was approved. Jeanne will bring “samples” of fees from other Friends organizations.

Nancy Owens of the Owens Group, Ltd. Presented the feasibility study proposal from her organization. Following her presentation, it was approved unanimously to hire The Owens Group at a cost of \$15000 plus mileage to implement the study. The study will pay in (3) installments of \$5,000 over the course of the study period. A proposal to that effect will be prepared and forwarded to the board for signature. Completion of the research portion is scheduled for late Fall with the final study report to be completed at the conclusion of this calendar year The work will begin immediately to take advantage of seasonal residents’ availability. Names of possible interviewees will be compiled by Jeanne, Sunny, and Julie and forwarded to Nancy... Other interview candidate’s suggestions from Friends members should be forwarded to Jeanne.

The ad hoc nominating committee met recently and names for board membership will be put forth at the August annual meeting.

Sunny reported on the planning for the upcoming bike tour. A meeting for volunteers will be held August 8 at 11am at the Casco Township Hall.

Jim informed the group of the upcoming Blueberry Festival Parade in South Haven on August 11 in which we could participate. Also, after attending a workshop in Kalamazoo related to trails and bikes, he reported that the majority of traffic engineer participants are not in favor of bikers pedaling on off road pathways.

Next meeting date is August 23, 2012 at Casco Township Hall. Time is 4:30 PM.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Eileen Mead
Secretary/Treasurer