

Friends of the Blue Star Trail

Minutes of the September 27, 2012 Meeting

Attendees: Board Members: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Julie Werkema
Friends: Sharon Gultinan, Sunny Hill

President Jeanne Van Zoeren opened the meeting at 4:42pm at the Casco Township Hall.

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 23, 2012 meeting were presented and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Adams presented a new format for treasurer's reports.

Summary through 9/27/2012:

Receipts for September	\$810
Expenses for September	\$5,503
(brochures, postage and feasibility study payment)	
Ending bank balance as of 9/27/12:	\$11,021

The Treasurer's Report was submitted and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jeanne Van Zoeren advised that Jim Van Buren is currently on vacation, however, he is working on bike tour statistics and is updating the website. The Friends picnic, hosted by Sunny Hill, was a great success. Jeanne has participated in several meetings with the Allegan Community Foundation. The Casco Nature Preserve is now open to the public. One of the presenters at the dedication ceremony was Patricia Birkholz, former Michigan Representative, who is now working in the office of Governor Snyder. She advised that she will assist the Friends with the Department of Transportation and will advocate for the trail.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Sunny Hill advised that the 2013 Lakeshore Harvest Bike Tour is scheduled for August 17, 2013. She will be contacting Julie Cowie to discuss the financial aspects of this event with regard to the Friends of the Blue Star Trail. She noted that the Friends received nothing for the current year. An Ad Hoc committee of 5 people will be formed to address the role of the Friends in the 2013 bike tour including a representative from one of the farms. Sunny also suggested utilizing Active.com for bike tour registrations. She advised that the Holland 100 has used it with great success. John Adams also mentioned an interesting article from the Detroit News which highlighted a ride through the City of Detroit.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY: Sunny Hill suggested that an article be submitted to the Observer regarding the bike tour and the progress of the feasibility study. She will contact the Observer and prepare information for them.

The quilt donation by Lisa Krupiarz was welcomed. Lisa indicated that she believes the quilt raffle will raise \$650 or more and she is willing to do it every year. Discussion was held about the possibility of adding an option to the website to click online to purchase raffle tickets.

ACTION ITEMS:

Membership Fee Amendment – A motion was made by Julie Werkema to Amend Article V Section 3 of the By-Laws to require dues as a condition of membership. Seconded by John Adams and passed without comment. The Amendment was signed by Secretary, Julie Werkema and added to the By-Laws. A letter will be sent out after Pay Pal is set up so a link can be included in the email.

The list of participants from the bike tour registration will be added to the current members list.

Jeanne Van Zoeren asked for a decision regarding the Allegan County Community Foundation contracts. Jeanne advised that we will be required to have an endowment fund as well as an “in/out” or “special project” fund. The ACCF would charge .05% quarterly based upon the amount collected. Checks would be made out to the Allegan County Community Foundation and earmarked for the Friends of the Blue Star Trail. They would also solicit donations and manage funds. They are the only organization of its kind that has paid staff in Allegan County. They would also provide quarterly reports through a contract with the Upper Peninsula Community Foundation. The endowment fund charges would be 2% on the first million and 1% thereafter. A decision was made to do some research into the costs and to wait to make a decision until we are closer to a determination on the feasibility study.

Jeanne will be contacting Brian Dissette, South Haven City Manager, regarding the 2013 Bike Tour.

John will be working to file the 990 form.

Julie will be sending thank you letters for September donations.

Jeanne has invited the Executive Director of Michigan Trails and Greenways to the next meeting. This is a non-profit organization that supports trails in Michigan.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05pm.