

Friends of the Blue Star Trail  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 21, 2017

Friends Present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Jack Eisinger, Dan Keller, Sunny Hill, Laura Jager

Friends Absent: Rosie Burke, Frank Cunningham, John Ludlow

Guest: Richard Donovan

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of November Minutes without correction
3. Treasurers Report-John Adams  
Jack Eisinger will be the Treasurer for the year 2018.  
Friends reviewed 3 hand outs. (*Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, 2017 BST construction Budget*)  
Friends 2017 income raised- \$100,100.42 (*Harvest Tour, Toast, Contributions*)  
Cash in ACCF Dec 20,2017- \$184,628  
Friends 2017 Trail construction expenses \$ 171.221  
Remaining construction income to be billed-\$143,813  
Total funds available between ACCF and Operating Fund \$45,442

John Adams made motion for Jack Eisinger to be added to the Chemical Bank account-Motion Carried.

Discussion on best financial institution to use for our banking funds. At this point no decision or changes to be made.

4. Presidents Report- Jeanne Van Zoeren  
Jeanne lead discussion regarding necessary renewals of resolutions from townships along Lakeshore. Jeanne emailed Board members examples of letter of support. Resolutions are necessary to further the ranking in Grant application process.  
Laura will set up meeting in South Haven. She will share/ update the City Manager on 5 year plan. Laura will ask for a letter of support .

Jeanne lead discussion on the need to renew the campaign to grow our pledge base. As pledges are met we need to be renewing those expiring and at the same time bringing in new donors. There was discussion April/May would be a good time to set up a strategic plan for a Pledge Campaign. It will be easier to set up contacts connect with potential donors as families return to Lakeshore in early Summer.

Jeanne presented the projected budget of the North Street Connection.

Motion made to approved North Street Connection.

Discussion on date of actual money distribution and project. Jeanne explained the time frame for grants applications is set up listing the project dates in the same calendar year for when you are applying for the grant. The project completion dates will vary and can be much later.

Motion to approve North Street connection carried. One held vote in absentia.

John Adams presented Saugatuck Meeting plan.

Discussed opportunities in grass roots movement from community residents. Keeping them informed and aware of the plans and steps we are making in moving the trail along. Sharing positive communications, and continuing dialogue between local residents and FOTBST with community leaders. Johns Goal: Sit together at the table...work together towards solutions.

5. 2017 Annual Campaign

We are midway thru campaign. It was noted that there are several first time donors that have given to this years appeal.

6. Marketing and Communications Report (Dedication Ceremony update)-Dan Keller

Dan reported he and Sunny had met with Arron Sheridan. There is discussion on possible dates ( early- mid May) and size of event. A Committee is being formed to plan the event. The Board will be involved but it is the goal to find community residents willing to take the lead in the planning.

7. Website-Clark Carmichael

Clark states this will be a winter project.

8. Board Duties- (Handout)

John requested Board members email him there tentative winter travel schedule for ease in communicating during the next 3 months while there is not a Board scheduled meeting.

Discussion on Board Duties Tabled

9. Next Meeting Date March 15, 2018 4:00 @Casco Township Hall

10. Jeanne ended the meeting with the bequeathing of a gavel to John Adams the new president of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail. With deep gratitude the Friends of the Blue Star Trail honor our retiring president Jeanne Van Zoeren. Thru her years of dedicated service Jeanne has charted the course. She has been the wind in our sails and our in the anchor in the storms. Thank you Jeanne.

11. Adjournment