

**Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 1-9-23
Annual Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023**

Call to Order

The Annual Meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6 pm on January 9, 2023 by Ron Rich, Chair in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Ron Rich, Jake Samascott, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, William Schneider

Not Present: Robin Benziger, David Kolb

Public:

Gary Spielmann, Ray Framarin, Sean Sawyer, Jurgen and Gail Babirad, Nolan Robinson, Bill Mancini, Jim DiGioia

Election of Directors

The following slate of directors was proposed:

Nolan Robinson Boardmember 3 year term

Ron Rich Boardmember 2nd 3 year term

Michael Susi Boardmember 3 year term

There were no other nominations from the floor

Deb moved approval of the slate and Gary seconded; approved

President's Highlights of the Year's Accomplishments

Ron reported:

The Greenway Trail Use Report for 2022 utilized, among others 2 counters in Columbia County. One was at Rothermel Park in Kinderhook and the other was at North Chatham. The Kinderhook site recorded 48,506 visits and North Chatham had 33,379. 56% of visits were pedestrians, 44% were bicycles. Of the bikes; 92% were pedaled and 2% were ebikes. This coming year (2023) the counters will be at Stuyvesant Falls and Stockport.

Electricity was installed at the Niverville Trailhead structure thanks to the donated electrical work from Joe McIntyre.

Local Scout Clubs assisted with Earth Day Trail Clean-ups

CFET and Kinderhook Runners Club held a Summer Solstice Bonfire at Samascott's

Benches were purchased with a Grant from NYS Parks and Trails to be installed in 2023

Senator Chuck Schumer announced the Rural Outdoor Investment Act, noting the accomplishments of groups like CFET and the building of the Empire Trail.

CFET did tabling/ pop-up tent at the weekly Kinderhook Village Farmers Market and we are exploring expansion to Hudson Farmers Market.

A successful Oktoberfest was held with TriVillage Rotary and over 330 dinners were served.

Lastly, a big thankyou goes to all the mower and trimmer crews (who put in over 790 hours of volunteer time) and especially Champion String Trimmer Gregg Berninger, who will be featured in our upcoming newsletter.

Treasurer's Highlights

Covered in the regular January Meeting which followed

Page 2

Action Plan 2023

Install 9 Parks and Trails Grant benches on the Trail,

Participate in Kinderhook Farmer's Market and explore expansion to Hudson,

Explore connector Trail with Ichabod Crane School

Provide access for Developmentally Disabled residents on trail via UTV or golf carts,

Plan fundraiser event at Stuyvesant Falls Plant with Albany Hydro

Design an informational brochure

Plan educational exhibits of historic, interpretive panels at Kinderhook Memorial Library and East Greenbush Library

Comments from Public: Gail Babirad noted a washout had occurred north of Valatie Main Street. It will need to be resurfaced and drainage problems addressed.

Adjourned: Bill moved, Gary seconded; Meeting adjourned 6:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Jamison