

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 6-6-22
Monthly Meeting Minutes **June 6, 2022**

Call to Order

The regular June meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:05pm on 6-6, 2022 by Ron Rich, Chair, in the Community Room at the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Ron Rich, Deb Shakotko, Jessie Anderson, Bill Schneider, Robin Benzinger, Jake Samascott, David Kolb

Not Present: Lee Jamison

Public: Jim DiGioia

Review May 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes

No corrections

Deb moved and Robin seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Reports presented by Deb through May 31, 2022

Opening Balance \$26,238.21

Revenue: \$320

Expense: \$1,578.93

Closing Balance: \$24,979.28 Reserves: \$2375.00

Expenses included a fee related to National Grid Electric service at the Niverville trailhead shed, and the UTV monthly payment.

Bill moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jake seconded: Passed.

Membership Report:

Total members: 138

42 individuals

76 families

17 sponsors

3 donors

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Ron is heading up mowing, including using the new tractor & flail mower. He reports two complete mows and is beginning the third. Ron reported an incident where the new flail mower became wrapped in farm wire north of Main Street in Valatie.

String trimming remains a challenge, attributed to fewer volunteer sign-ups and needing more crew leaders.

Ron reported that Greg Berninger completed 14 hours of string trimming solo on the Niverville to Valatie portion of the trail. Ron has two contacts interested in becoming string trimming crew leaders.

CFET will install a new sign at the North Chatham trailhead.

Hudson Area Library/Other Exhibit Venues

The trail exhibit at the Hudson Area Library is in place until June 30th. Matt Kierstead gave a talk *Trolleys, Trails and Tales: Interpreting the Empire State Trail's Albany-Hudson Electric Trail* on Thursday May 26th. Matt wants to do this talk again in Rensselaer County at the East Greenbush Public Library. Robin will reach out to the East Greenbush Library and will explore additional venues. Jim DiGioia volunteered to help support an additional/future talk.

History Night Event

Ron reports that Ron, Robin and Gary Spielman will meet with Jim Besha PE whose firm operates the Stuyvesant Falls electric plant to look at holding an event there. This is tentatively planned as a longer term summer 2023 project.

Benches Grant

Ron reports that a check for half of the grant amount is expected to arrive by the end of June contingent on the completion of a historic preservation review by NYS Parks. Ron has a list of potential locations for the eight benches and CFET will be seeking final approval from the Greenway shortly. Deb reported the Columbia Paper printed our related press release. It also appeared in the Register Star.

Summer Solstice Event with Kinderhook Runners Club

The June 18th Summer Solstice Event is our first event in partnership with the Kinderhook Runners Club, in observance of the Solstice on June 21st. It will take place at Samascott Orchards abutting the trail on Sunset Avenue.

Robin is looking into potential display space at the Columbia County Fair which may be available on a pro bono basis.

Public Comments: Jim DiGioia expressed concern about safety at the larger intersection near the North Chatham trailhead and expressed support for an event at the Stuyvesant Falls hydroelectric plant.

Adjournment: Bill motioned, Jake seconded; Meeting adjourned 7:08 pm

Next Meeting

Next Meeting, Monday July 11, 2022 at KML. Entrance on Sylvester Street. Masks are optional.