

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET)
Meeting Minutes September 14, 2026

Monthly Meeting September 14, 2026

Call to Order

The September Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was as held in the Kinderhook Library. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President, Bob Hess.

Present: Jessie Anderson, Scott Cairns, Bob Hess, Kevin Gilrain, David Pettie, Bill Schneider

Present via Zoom: Michael Susi

Absent: Lee Jamison, Deb Shakatko

Public: Ron Rich, Jim DiGioia

Review August 10th, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Bill moved to approve, Kevin seconded: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

In advance of the meeting, Deb provided treasurer's reports ending August 31, 2026

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 28,363.24

Revenue: \$1,257.33

Expenses: \$2,352.96

Closing Balance: \$27,156.28

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 69,477.87

Kevin moved to approve, Bill seconded: Passed

Trail Maintenance Updates

Kevin shared his year-to-date CFET Maintenance Hours and Volunteer Engagement Tracker, through 9/14/2026

YTD Mowing: 149.75 hours

YTD Trimming: 247.50 hours

Avg Crew Size: 6.21 per deployment

YTD Deployments: 19

Other updates included: This season has added two new committed volunteers to help with turnover of some other regular volunteers who have been unable to be out on the trail this year; Maintenance crew is assuming responsibility for the Main Street, Valatie to Train Bridge just north of Niverville TH (formerly maintained by volunteer Gregg Berninger); Large recovery of shopping carts along the Atlantic Ave to Pucher Ave section of the trail (behind Walmart); We will be putting four new "off-brand" batteries into service in the coming weeks and we will use a tracker to get some insights on how they perform versus our current Ego batteries.

Flail mower has been active, but recently caught a legacy NationalGrid cable in the grass and is now in "repair" mode.

Membership Updates

Ron reports YTD: 134 members; 44 Individual, 66 Family, 24 Sponsor.

Totals on par with 2025 but with growth in individuals (+22.2%) and sponsors (+33.3%).

Communication: Publicity for Oktoberfest ongoing; when returning the Walmart shopping carts, the Walmart representative encourages CFET to write a letter requesting some grant support for our efforts – Bob will deliver the letter.

Old Business

Oktoberfest: Date is 10-17-26 Ron reported that as of this meeting date, we have sold 44-45 tickets. Farmer's Market presence has sold some ticket and handed out lots of our new tri-fold brochure/map. We will continue to cover the Farmer's Market for ticket sales through the 10/10 market.

New Business

New batteries – referenced above in Trail Maintenance Updates

Updated T-shirt designs – discuss more at the October meeting and form a committee to lead design and ordering of new shirts

Discussion of sale of CFET asset: Kawasaki Mule Trans 4x4 purchased in 2021 for \$11,497; Only 28 hours of use on it and obsolete since purchase of CFET Honda truck; prime condition comparables are hard to get directly, but available price research shows a target price of between \$9-11k. Kevin moved to authorize Ron to approach a private buyer for a simple sale, Bill seconded: Passed.

At 7:13 PM, Bob moved, Kevin seconded to adjourn to Executive Session: Passed

At 7:30 PM, Bob moved, Kevin seconded to exit Executive Session: Passed

At 7:31 PM, Bill moved, Scott seconded to adjourn the meeting: Passed

Next Meeting

TUESDAY, October 13, 2026 @ 6pm in the Reading Porch of the Kinderhook Memorial Library. Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Gilrain (for Lee Jamison)

Subsequent to this meeting, by way of email, a proposal to sell the Kawasaki Mule to a private buyer for the negotiated sale price of \$8,500. Seven of nine board members replied in the email exchange to "approve" this sale.