

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 1-12-26
Meeting Minutes January 12, 2026

Annual Meeting

Call to Order

The Annual meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:00pm on January 12, 2026 by Bob Hess in the Kinderhook Memorial Library

Present

Bob Hess, Deb Shakotko, Jessie Anderson,
Bill Schneider, Kevin Gilrain, Michael Susi, Ron Rich,
Public: David Pettie, Scott Cairns
Absent: Lee Jamison,

Review 2024

Highlights of 2025 were presented by Ron Rich in a power point:

1. Presentation of the \$2.2 M project to finish the paving of the Trail. With the exception of 100 total yards that could not be paved, the Chatham to Hudson section has been completed as originally planned.
2. Ron shared the new postcard for 2026 membership featuring an historic AHET scene.
3. Ron also shared the 12-30-25 celebration at the North Chatham Library Station honoring Andy Beers for his support from the beginning to help get the Rail Trail to what it is today.

New Boardmembers

Bob nominated and Bill seconded with all in favor the following nominations: two current Boardmembers for 3year terms: Kevin Gilrain and Michael Susi.

Bob Hess nominated and Bill seconded Scott Cairns to a new 3 year term and David Pettie to a new one year term. Approved.

Adjournment

Bill moved and Jessie seconded meeting adjourned at 6:22pm

Monthly Meeting January 12, 2026

Call to Order

The January Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:23 pm on January 12, 2025 by Bob Hess in the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Bob Hess, Deb Shakotko, Jessie Anderson, David Pettie, Scott Cairns, Bill Schneider, Michael Susi, Kevin Gilrain,
Public: Ron Rich
Absent: Lee Jamison

Slate of Officers

Ron moved and Bill seconded this slate of Officers; Approved:

President: Bob Hess
Vice President: Bill Schneider
Secretary: Lee Jamison
Treasurer: Deb Shakotko

Review December 8, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb gave treasurer's report through December 31, 2025

Opening Balance \$28,642

Revenue \$8,555.13

Expenses \$10,837.69

Closing Balance \$26,268.31

Total with CD \$67,665.49

Deb indicated the year's final statement reflected a small decline in membership but the organization is still investing and maintaining sufficient funds to purchase needed equipment and supplies throughout the year.

Membership Report

Ron stated that updates will be more accurate at March report.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin gave his annual report broken down from March to December as to hours worked by almost 20 volunteers during the 2025 year totaling well over 700 hours maintaining our section of the Trail

Other Business: Ron indicates the Newsletter being sent out will reflect the powerpoint presentation he had presented to the group.

Trail enhancements: two more dog waste stations were approved as there is a sale in January.

Picnic tables continue to be discussed.

Ron discussed the desire to have a 5th Anniversary Celebration and the location and time are still being considered.

Public Comments: none

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm

Next Meeting March 9, 2026 @ 6pm

No February Meeting due to no winter activities

We will meet Monday March 9, 2026 at the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted from notes by Bob Hess,
Lee Jamison