

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 10-16-23 Monthly Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:00pm on October 16, 2023 by Ron Rich, Chair, in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Ron Rich, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Nolan Robinson, Michael Susi,
Bill Schneider, Jake Samascott, David Kolb

Not Present: Deb Shakotko,

Public: Kevin Gilrain, Mike Foote, Jim Di Gioia

Review September 11, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Bill moved and Nolan seconded to approve : Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Ron shared Deb's report through September 30, 2023

Opening Balance \$ 34,679.80

Revenue \$996.00

Expenses \$5128.82

Closing Balance: \$ 30,546.98 Total with Reserves: \$ 38, 046.98

We are expecting the arrival of the Greenway grant funds (\$12,500)

Deb and Ron will apply for the 2024 Greenway Grant.

The OK5K gave \$400 which will be reflected next month.

Ron sent a letter to the Town of Stuyvesant confirming CFET's intention to maintain the trail in 2024.

Stuyvesant has put \$1000 in the 2024 budget for CFET.

Lee moved to approve and Dave seconded: Passed.

Membership Report

Nolan reports new members for a total of 178. Income YTD \$14,675 from membership. New members came from Jessie's CFET Tent presence at the Hudson Farmer's Market. There was also a \$250 donation.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Ron and Jake reported the two new mowers from Greenway have arrived.

Some one-to-one trimming/mowing training was scheduled for new volunteers.

Ron continued to speak with the Plant Manager at Allied Health (now United Medical) about the possibility of having a storage container at Stuyvesant Falls but no agreement at this time as new owners are considering development plans. Colarusso is paving the eroded trail north of Greenport.

Events:

Oktoberfest 21, 2023: Date is set. Posters and tickets are available online and from members.

96 tickets sold to date. 52 sold on Eventbrite. Rotary has 50 out. Jake will send out an eblast. We discussed our volunteer assignments for the event. Volunteers to report to Garden Market at 2:30pm.

History Night: Matt Kierstead will lecture 10-22-23 6:30pm Valatie. Register at the website. 36 people have RSVPed so far. Ron asked to give the Valatie Theater a facility fee of \$250. Bill moved; Jessie seconded; Approved.

Grant Updates

Benches: Last bench (9th) has been installed

Farmer's Market

Summer's events felt to be successful, especially outreach to Hudson. Now closed for the season.

Public Comments:

Jim DiGioia spoke about revisiting advocacy for a sidewalk extension along Rt9 to connect the Village with the Trail at the border with the Town of Stuyvesant at Smith Road. He also reports that the Historical Society is looking to make a footpath to connect the Vanderpoel House of History with the Trail at the west edge of their back lawn.

Dave Kolb related that townfolks had suggested trash receptacles but Trail policy is pack it in and pack it out.

We discussed an earlier request for access for Special Needs folks at State Farm Rd group homes . Ron offered the possibility of rides on the "mule". "OPWDD Regional Office has not officially responded to the offer. The Greenway has prepared a draft agreement with CFET which would authorize us to use our gas powered UTV for this purpose."

Executive Session: Entered to discuss personnel matters.

7:06pm Dave moved and Jessie seconded move to Executive Session.

7:30pm Dave moved and Lee seconded close of Executive Session

Adjournment: Jessie moved, Ron seconded; Meeting adjourned 7:31 pm

Next Meeting

We will meet Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6pm. At Kinderhook Memorial Library Community Room. Entrance on Sylvester Street. **Masks optional.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison