

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 12-4-23 Monthly Meeting Minutes December 4, 2023

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:00pm on December 4, 2023 by Deb Shakotko, Treasurer, in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Present

Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Michael Susi, Nolan Robinson
Present via Zoom: Ron Rich
Not Present: David Kolb, Jake Samascott, Bill Schneider
Public: Kevin Gilrain

Review November 6, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Jessie moved and Deb seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb gave treasurer's report through November 30, 2023

Opening Balance \$34,966.41

Revenue \$0

Expenses \$1020.64

Closing Balance: \$34,495.77 Total with Reserves: \$ 41,995.77

Greenway Grant balance \$7,759.69 billed, balance to be billed as expenses accrue. Deadline before March 2024. No funds received as yet. (Grant total \$12,500)

Insurance premium will be due in January but there are adequate funds to cover.

Deb discussed 2024 Budget

Security system for Niverville purchased, to be installed.

Funds for a Stuyvesant Falls area storage container remain in budget but may be repurposed as we don't have permission for preferred site.

Nolan moved to approve and Jessie seconded: Passed.

Membership Report

Nolan reports no new members this month.

Jake has looked into an online account system that is fee free for tracking memberships, donations, tickets, names: "Zeffy". Nolan to mail Deb membership list as people will be renewing in new year via Zeffy.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin gave report for crews: 2 new volunteers, 4 deployments for tall weed cutting in October; mid-November did Niverville north and south to Stottville. Snow markers in place. Thanks to Kevin for leadership on this.

Setting up monthly winter trail monitoring. Report issues to Bill Schneider.

Events: On 11-16-23, Lee represented CFET at a Parks and Trails NY event at Corning Preserve advocating for "Greenway Trails for a Green Future" legislation and to expand use of powerline corridors as trails in NY.

Grant Updates

Ron and Deb will work on next Greenway Grant

Newsletter: Anne Shaefer and Ron will work on annual newsletter. They will include a QR code for Zeffy membership renewals. There will be a Memorium to Bill DeBell who had been an active volunteer crew member.

Public Comments: Brian Wantuch contacted us online to express concern about beaver dam building activity in Valatie that might cause flooding on the trail. We will monitor.

Adjournment: Jessie moved, Deb seconded; Meeting adjourned 6:55 pm

Next Meeting

Since our usual 1st Monday Meeting date is New Years Day, we will need to reschedule. The Library may not be available. We may need to find another venue. The January Meeting is also our Annual Meeting for election of Board members. The Annual Meeting will be held first, then the January monthly meeting with election of Officers. Ron will check on the availability of the Glynn Municipal Building in Valatie. TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison