

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 12-8-25
Meeting Minutes December 8, 2025

Monthly Meeting December 8, 2025

Call to Order

The December Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was held in the Kinderhook Library. Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Vice Chair Bill Schneider.

Present: Bill Schneider, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Kevin Gilrain, Bob Hess

Present via Zoom: Nolan Robinson

Absent:, Ron Rich, Michael Susi,

Public: Scott Cairns

Review November 8, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes

Deb moved and Kevin seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb gave treasurer's report through November 30, 2025

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 32,888.38

Revenue: (\$2781,95) negative due to payment to Rotary

Expenses: \$1370.53

Closing Balance: \$28,642.00

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 59,948.05

Jessie moved to approve, Bob seconded; approved

Deb presented the 2026 Budget. There was discussion about the reserve lines. Deb explained that we need \$5,000 in reserve as this is in the insurance deductible. We anticipate needing some aging equipment repairs and possibly wiring for storage security. We plan for \$3,000 for trail enhancements, namely accessible picnic tables.

Kevin moved to approve the 2026 CFET Budget and Bob seconded; approved.

Deb reports the CD comes due 12-14-25. She proposed adding \$10,000 from checking to add to the CD

Bill moved to approve, Bob seconded; Approved.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin reports activity is dormant for the winter.

11-13-25 snow stakes in place at Niverville and North Chatham

The Sheriff's Bike Patrol is planning several Trail Safety events for the Spring.

Valatie Rescue Squad reported an average of 2 incidents per year, typically falls from bikes.

Paving has improved ambulance access to Trail. There has been one accident at an intersection with a car and bike. Patrol car passes would be good in areas of Atlantic Ave and Jiffy Lube.

Kevin is planning a Volunteer Appreciation Event at his house 3 Church St., Kinderhook for Saturday 12-13-25 @ 3pm. Good RSVP response.

Membership Report

Ron will chair in 2026. No new members this month.

Renewal reminders to go out with Newsletter planned in January.

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Communication: Jessie will present in January Meeting.

Newsletter: Nolan has drafted the newsletter and needs to add photos. He will reach out to Ann Shaeffer for layout assist. Membership, joining, renewals and automatic renewal via Zeffy will be explained.

Events:

CFET 5th Anniversary is December 20, 2025. Commemoration tba

Trail Enhancement Projects: Everyone likes the idea of picnic tables. Ron had presented items. Mike would like to look at other design options and bring to next meeting. We discussed placement of two tables. One at Niverville Trailhead and one possibly at New Street-Rossman Rd section. Ron and Bob will meet to detail.

Public Comments: none

Adjournment: Nolan moved, Kevin seconded; adjourned 6:52pm

Next Meeting

January 12, 2026 @ 6pm

We are now meeting on the second Monday of each month. We will meet Monday January 12, 2026 in the Reading Porch of the Kinderhook Memorial Library. This will be our Annual Meeting chaired remotely by Ron and our January Meeting Chaired by Bill. We will be seating new members and electing officers.

Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison