

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 3-9-26
Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026

Monthly Meeting March 9, 2026

Call to Order

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

Present: Bob Hess, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Kevin Gilrain, David Pettie, Michael Susi,

Present via Zoom: Ron Rich,

Absent: Scott Cairns, Deb Shakotko, Bill Schneider,

Public: Jim DiGioia

Review January 12, 2026 Annual Organizational and Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thank you to Bob Hess for minutes due to Lee's absence. Content was approved reflecting new members and officers, with Lee reformatting.

Kevin moved and Mike seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb was absent but provided treasurer's reports in writing for January and February 2026

January 2026

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 26,268.31

Revenue: \$2,929.01

Expenses: \$3,836.04

Closing Balance: \$25,242.27

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 66,758.46

February 2026

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 25,242.27

Revenue: \$5,112.36

Expenses: \$2,908.25

Closing Balance: \$27,328.32

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 68,962.57

Kevin moved to approve, Jessie seconded; approved

Membership Report

Ron reported 32 individuals; 53 families; 16 sponsors (Town of Kinderhook gave \$500)

Renewals are still coming in with about 75% received

Ron is sending reminders

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin agreed to be the Volunteer Coordinator for 2026 season. Trailwork will commence in April, roster to be updated, Bill and Kevin plan to meet with the Sheriff's Bike Patrol.

Sidewalk by William's Farm on Rt9 needs to be brushed

Dog Waste Stations: two more to be installed when ground is ready

Earth Day Cleanup planned for Wednesday 4-22-26. Jessie suggested attracting highschool volunteers with "Junior Memberships" and Saturday work days. Equipment use, however, requires adult membership and training. Kevin has 18 people on his list, retirees.

Ron will return 4-14-26 and plans sharpening, oil changes and bought 2 new batteries on sale.

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Communication: Jessie reports the brochure is ready with some small additions: location of new dog waste stations, clarification of contact to use gmail address.

Events:

CFET 5th Anniversary is December 20, 2025. Commemoration tba. Bob Hess will contact the Rotary about a Spring date for Rothermel Park as venue.

6-27-27 Volunteer Fair at the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church 10am to 2pm.. We are invited to table.

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

Jessie reports that there was conversation on 3-23-26 Kinderhook Comprehensive Plan about interest in a connector trail between the Electric Trail and Volunteer Park. A history of land owner issues for rights of way would need to be resolved.

Public Comments: Jim reports damage to a guardrail and crossing sign on Rt9. Greenway will contact DOT. DOT is responsible for repairs.

Adjournment to Executive Session regarding a public relations matter: Kevin moved, Jessie seconded Executive session approved; Opened 6:52pm, Closed 7:10pm

Adjournment Jessie moved, Kevin Seconded Meeting adjourned 7:12pm

Next Meeting

April 13, 2026 @ 6pm

We are now meeting on the second Monday of each month. We will meet Monday April 13, 2026 in the Reading Porch of the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison