

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 5-11-26
Meeting Minutes May 11, 2026

Monthly Meeting May 11, 2026

Call to Order

The May Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was held in the Kinderhook Library. Meeting was called to order at 5:58 pm by Chair Bob Hess.

Present: Bob Hess, Bill Schneider, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison,, Kevin Gilrain, Michael Susi, Scott Cairns, David Pettie,

Present via Zoom:

Absent: Jessie Anderson

Public: Ron Rich

Review April 13, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Deb moved and Bill seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb provided treasurer's reports ending April 30, 2026

Audit held 4-13-26 with no issues noted

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 25,813.51

Revenue: \$1,63.70

Expenses: \$1,202.00

Closing Balance: \$25,656.51

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 67,516.38

This month expenses included brochure printing and truck registration.

Duplicate D&O Insurance payments have been corrected between Chubb and Metzwood.

Deb feels she budgeted sufficient fuel funds for the season despite anticipated cost increases.

Kevin moved to approve, Bob seconded; approved

Membership Report

Total 123; 39 individuals; 62 family; 22 sponsors There is an increase in sponsors over last year.

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Kevin reported they have started mowing. Six volunteers are reporting for the first deployment tomorrow at 9:30am. Bill will mow on Saturday. Kevin states sections need mowing in the Spring every 7-10 days.

Dog Waste Stations: Ron and Bob installed the last 2 for a total of 6 between North Chatham and Stottville. Bins assigned for weekly checking and emptying. An anti-bacterial spray is provided for cleaning after a full bag is emptied from the bin.

Communication: People love the Trail Brochure. Ron hand- corrected a mileage error in one section which will be corrected next printing.

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Events:

CFET 5th Anniversary plans are tabled

May 17, 2026 at 12-3pm at Rothermel Park the Sheriff's Bike Patrol will hold a bike safety event about their mission and safety on the Trail.

Bill and Bob had met with the Sheriff's Bike Safety Group on 4-22-26. Two Deputies are assigned to this Patrol. An overview of their services was given.

6-27-26 Volunteer Fair at the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church McNary Center- 10am to 2pm.. We are invited to table. Lee and Jessie volunteered

Trail Enhancement Projects: Everyone likes the idea of picnic tables. Ron had presented items. Ron presented some new design options and noted that shipping costs have increased. We discussed placement of two tables. One at Niverville Trailhead and one possibly at New Street-Rossman Rd section. Installation of one table at Niverville was discussed.

Kevin moved that (subject to Greenway approval) one table as described will be ordered and installed. Deb seconded, Approved.

Bob, Ron, Scott and Kevin will meet at Niverville on 5-12-26 to make an installation plan. Bob will confer with Andy Beers of Greenway about our recommendation.

Public Comments: Bob presented that for a second time a citizen requested a memorial bench in honor of her deceased husband to install at his favorite spot on the Trail. We are reminded that the Greenway's position is that there are no memorialized benches on the AHET Section of the Empire Trail. The Empire Trail has allowed memorials on other sections.

Adjournment Bill moved, Deb seconded Meeting adjourned 7:05pm

Next Meeting

June 8, 2026 @ 6pm

We are now meeting on the second Monday of each month. We will meet Monday, June 8, 2026 in the Reading Porch of the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison