

**Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 7-13-26**  
**Meeting Minutes July 13, 2026**

**Monthly Meeting July 13, 2026**

**Call to Order**

The July Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was held in the Kinderhook Library. Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair Bob Hess.

**Present:** Bob Hess, Jessie Anderson, Bill Schneider, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison,, Michael Susi, David Pettie,

**Present via Zoom:**

**Absent:** Scott Cairns, Kevin Gilrain

**Public:** Ron Rich

**Review June 8th, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Bill moved and Deb seconded to approve: Passed

**Treasurer and Budget Status Reports**

Deb provided treasurer's reports ending June 30, 2026

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 2,692.63

Revenue: \$5,474.37

Expenses: \$1,205.71

Closing Balance: \$33,781.98

**Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 75,876.41**

This month income reflects a gift from the T Backer Fund, other contributions, CD interest and expenses included payment on truck, mower blades, fuel and water cooler for volunteers

Bill moved to approve, David seconded; approved

**Training and Maintenance Committee Report**

Picnic Table: Ron, Scott and Ken installed the accessible picnic table at Niverville. CJ Miner donated cement and Mario's lent the auger.

Storm Damage: Bob reported that most of the damage was north of Valatie and south of Kiel Rd in Stuyvesant Falls. National Grid will do major tree removal. Bob cut branches until his batteries ran out.

Ron, Bill, Bob and Ken will do fence repair tomorrow. Boards to be purchased from Mario's and will be reimbursed by Greenway. Deb will handle receipts. Ron suggested getting supplies for future fence damage so we are prepared.

Kevin will return July 9

Repairs and Replacements:

Ron reports that we need to replace some batteries as they date from 2020. He says Lowe's will recycle for free. Ron noted that he gets a Veteran's discount at Lowe's. Discussed the need to update the equipment inventory for purchase dates and serial#s.

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### **Membership Report**

Ron reports 131 members; 42 Individual, 65 Family, 24 Sponsor.

Totals on par with 2025 but with growth in sponsors.

**Communication:** Trail Brochure updated. The Baillargeon family volunteered to keep the map holder stocked at North Chatham trailhead.

### **Old Business**

#### **Events:**

6-13-26 Volunteer Fair at the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church McNary Center- 10am to 2pm, was rescheduled from 6-27-26. We were invited to table. Lee and Bill volunteered. We felt there was low foot-traffic but good networking with the other volunteer organizations.

Bike Safety Event at Rothermel Park had low attendance. It was suggested to hold it at the school in the future while school is still in session.

8-3-26 will be the start of Parks and Trails "Ride the Hudson Valley". They will start this section at Hudson Valley CC and go to CGCC for the evening. We will tent at Little Lake Rd. intersection off RT 203. There was discussion about safety at that crossing and various safety strategies. Adirondack Park has gated crossings.

Oktoberfest: Deb suggests we need to set a date. Bob to call Rotary and Jake Samascott.

**Trail Enhancement Projects:** Everyone likes the idea of picnic tables.

Tables are ready to be ordered (Bob) and delivered(Ron) and installed in Niverville by a team of Bob, Ron, Scott and Dave.

#### **Public Comments and Community Interest:**

Dave had asked if it is permissible to have art installations along the Trail. Bob, Dave will discuss with Greenway/Andy Beers.

Jessie suggests that pollinator garden plantings via the Town Climate Smart Committees might be an option for some of the steeper edges.

Valatie Free Library is interested in having activities along the trail but will need to ascertain property boundaries

**Adjournment** Bob moved, Jessie seconded Meeting adjourned 7:19pm

#### **Next Meeting**

**August 10, 2026 @ 6pm**

We are now meeting on the second Monday of each month. We will meet Monday August 10, 2026 in the Reading Porch of the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Jamison