

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 8-10-26
Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

Monthly Meeting August 10, 2026

Call to Order

The August Monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was held in the Kinderhook Library. Meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm by Chair Bob Hess.

Present: Bob Hess, Jessie Anderson, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison,, Michael Susi,, Scott Cairns

Present via Zoom:

Absent: David Pettie, Kevin Gilrain, Bill Schneider

Public: Ron Rich, Jim DiGioia

Review July 13th, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Deb moved and Jessie seconded to approve: Passed

Treasurer and Budget Status Reports

Deb provided treasurer's reports ending July 31, 2026

Opening Checking Account Balance: \$ 33,781.98

Revenue: \$425.83

Expenses: \$5,728.74

Closing Balance: \$28,363.24

Total with CD, Reserves: \$ 70,573.50

This month included the handicapped accessible picnic table and fuel

Jessie moved to approve, Scott seconded; approved

Training and Maintenance Committee Report

Storm Damage: Bob reported on the Rothermel Park area damage due to washout. A detour is in place and publicized. He will also check on damage in the area of Stewart's.

Repairs and Replacements:

Zero turn mower needs a new belt

Discussed the need to update the equipment inventory for purchase dates and serial#s.

Ron suggested that the "Mule" is no longer needed since the purchase of the truck, and might be sold.

He will explore fair market value for prices. We will table decisions until Kevin returns.

Membership Report

Ron reports 132 members; 42 Individual, 66 Family, 24 Sponsor.

Totals on par with 2025 but with growth in sponsors.

Communication: Publicity for Octoberfest upcoming. Ann Shaeffer has helped design in past

Old Business

Events:

8-3-26 was a successful Parks and Trails "Ride the Hudson Valley". They start this section at Hudson Valley CC and go to CGCC for the evening. We tented at Little Lake Rd. intersection. There was a suggestion that we have a port-o-potty there next year

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Oktoberfest: Date will be 10-17-26 Bob to confer with Rotary about expenses but we want to try to keep ticket price at \$22. Also speak to Jake as Samascott's baked and donated desserts last year. Kevin to set up Zeffy ticket page and we will sell tickets at Kinderhook Farmer's Market.

Trail Enhancement Projects: Picnic Table project is completed

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. Its suggested he might collaborate with Valatie Library.

Valatie Free Library is interested in having activities along the trail but needed to ascertain property boundaries. It was determined that the treeline was the boundary.

Adjournment Deb moved, Scott seconded, Meeting adjourned 6:51pm

Next Meeting

September 14, 2026 @ 6pm

We are now meeting on the second Monday of each month. We will meet Monday September 14, 2026 in the Reading Porch of the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

Please use the Sylvester Street entrance.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Jamison