

## **Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) 8-7-23 Monthly Meeting Minutes August 7, 2023**

### **Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail was called to order at 6:00pm on August 7, 2023 by Ron Rich, Chair, in the Community Room at Kinderhook Memorial Library.

### **Present**

Ron Rich, Deb Shakotko, Lee Jamison, Jessie Anderson, Nolan Robinson, Michael Susi, Bill Schneider, Jake Samascott,

Not Present: David Kolb

Public: Jim DiGioia

### **Review July 10, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Deb moved and Bill seconded to approve : Passed

### **Treasurer and Budget Status Reports**

Report by Deb thru July31, 2023

Opening Balance \$36,189.94

Revenue \$375.00

Expenses \$939.10

Closing Balance \$35,625.84 Total with Reserves: \$40,625.84

Bill moved to approve and Jake seconded: Passed.

### **Membership Report**

Membership: Nolan reported a total of 170 members generating income of \$14,150.

Jessie is exploring setting up an account with Venmo for online donations. She will also explore a system to track new members with Solasus the web provider.

### **Training and Maintenance Committee Report**

Jake, Mike and Ron report the entire trail was mowed in preparation for the 7-30-23 cycling event. 2 new volunteers were trained on string trimming.

Some equipment has gone missing; a blower, string trimmer and 2 batteries

Ron spoke with the Plant Manager at Allied Health about the possibility of having a storage container next to their shipping container across from Overlook Park in Stuyvesant Falls. The man indicated that a UK firm has purchased the site and plans to continue the operation. He inquired if we could mow their adjacent property. We decided that was too extensive to take on. Ron will continue the conversation about a storage container.

### **Events:**

Parks and Trails NY is sponsored a “Cycle the Hudson Valley” event with 217 registered riders going from Albany to NYC. They passed through Columbia County on Sunday July 30. We had an informational tent with drinking water and info at Little Lake Rd. Great chatting with bicyclists from near and far. All seemed to be having a great time and were complimentary about our mowing and trimming on this section of the Empire Trail. Bill Schneider added signage to draw attention to Overlook Park and Stuyvesant Falls.

**History Night:** Matt Kirstead will lecture 10-22-23 6:30pm Valatie. Register at the website. Anne Shaeffer agreed to do a flyer which Nolan offered to print.

9-16-23 We will have a table at the **Stuyvesant BiCentennial Event**

**Octoberfest 2023:** we await confirmation of date from Rotary, either October 14 or 21. It will be drive-thru at Samascott's Farm and Garden Market

### **Grant Updates**

**Greenway Grant has been reapproved**

Benches: 61/2 installed; 21/2 to go.

Trolley theme playground equipment set at Rothermel Park: no discussion

Niverville Comfort Station: The Rotary is interested in having some sort of comfort station at this trail head. Ron has referred them to the Greenway as this would be a big project.

### **Farmer's Market**

No discussion

### **Public Comments:**

A member of the public expressed, on Facebook, dismay at evidence of weed spraying on the Trail. I explained that CFET does not spray. Ron noted that the Grid does spray as part of their maintenance routine.

**Executive Session:** Entered to discuss a personnel matter. 7:10-7:40pm

**Adjournment:** Bill moved, Mike seconded; Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm

### **Next Meeting**

We will meet Monday, September 11, 2023 (due to Labor Day Holiday on 9-4-23) . At Kinderhook Memorial Library Community Room. Entrance on Sylvester Street. **Masks optional.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Jamison