

Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, July 22, 2008

- Meeting is called to order. Welcome guests. All attending introduce themselves.
- A motion is made to accept June, 2008 meeting minutes and current agenda.
- President's report (Dennis Tipsword)
 - He has been receiving "tons of phone calls" regarding the unfavorable condition of the trail in certain areas (grass overgrown, etc.). Dennis did ask if there was anyway the Friends group could take care of any trail maintenance and he was told no by Anthony Casasanta. Dave Rumohr did say that he believed he saw that some of the mentioned places were trimmed as of today from what he saw.
 - John Crumm says the bridge is on schedule. It is supposed to be covered.
 - He has also received many complaints of graffiti. Anthony has been sending out a crew to paint over any existing graffiti. It has been difficult to keep up with it though. The sheriff's response is that the trail is not officially open.
- A thank you was sent to the Slow Spokes for their donation.
- Treasurer's report by Chuck Mabley for the month of June is \$5,598.04. This includes expenses of a \$100 donation that we made to the Stoney Creek Distance Run and \$70 to renew the post office box. Dennis Tipsword makes a motion to accept which is seconded by Dave Rumohr.
- Marty Osborne made a motion to renew the Fidelity Bond for \$124.74. Dave Rumohr seconds and the motion passes.
- Trail Commission Report – Al Goetzingler supplied a report via email. The minutes are attached here:
 - RICHMOND TRAIL MAINTENANCE The Committee interviewed two bidders for trail maintenance on the Richmond portion and both were capable of performing the job. Kent Lawn Care out of Armada will also clean the restroom for an extra \$5/hour. Their total hourly charge is \$37.95/hour. It is estimated that the maintenance will cost \$100-150/month. It was the recommendation from Chairman Jeschke that Kent Lawn care was the best qualified bidder and to award the contract to them. Motion by Kirsh, supported by Brown to accept the bid of Kent Lawn Care and to direct Corporation Counsel to draft a contract similar to the HCMA Maintenance contract. Motion carried.
 - MAINTENANCE – 29 MILE ROAD TO 32 MILE ROAD Anthony has received telephone calls regarding maintenance issued from 29 Mile Road to 32 Mile Road. HCMA has verbally agreed to extend the current path maintenance contract to include the Trail up to 32 Mile Road.
 - Motion by Kirsh, supported by Brown to accept the recommendation to extend the contract with HCMA to include the area from 29 Mile Road to 32 Mile Road. Motion carried.
 - MAPS - John Crumm presented the finished maps of the Trail. Motion by Brown, supported by Kirsh to approve printing of large maps. Motion carried. Motion by Kirsh, supported by Youngblood to approve printing of 5000 copies of the 8 ½ x 11 inch maps. Motion carried.
 - WADE TRIM INVOICE John Crumm presented the final Wade Trim Invoice. There were questions from the Commissioners regarding how this invoice correlated with the settlement figure reached with the Board of Commissioners. Motion by Kirsh, seconded by Brown to table this item until next month so that the Commissioners can receive a written report regarding Wade Trim's costs. Motion carried
 - ITC TREE NEGOTIATION John Crumm met with ITC and Mueller's Landscaping. ITC is willing to give us more trees such as crabapple, chokeberry, and dwarf apple, instead of shrubs. These trees will be on MOTC property, not adjacent property owners. Motion by Kirsh, supported by Brown to accept the tree replanting list. Motion carried.
 - STOP SIGNS The missing stop signs at the driveway on old Van Dyke have been replaced. They have a new locking mechanism so that they cannot be removed.
 - SINK HOLE There was a sink hole at the northeast corner of 26 Mile Road and Mound Road. The Road Commission filled it with dirt. AEW is investigating whether the water that caused the sink hole came from the surface or underneath the Trail.
 - RFQ FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES The RFQ has been sent to MDOT for final review and approval. After MDOT's approval, the RFQ will be sent out for bid to a pre-qualified list of bidders (pursuant to MDOT requirements).
 - FRIENDS UPDATE The covered bridge project is bogged down because of the need for an engineer's seal on the plans. The Friends 3 bicycle racks in honor of Ted Grondent have been purchased.
 - NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 26th at 8:30 a.m. at Rotary Park.
- Covered bridge report (Neil Kocsis) from email: I talked to Gary Kirsh after the last meeting and still no answer on whether they will assume the liability. I also left a msg. for the engineer at Spalding DeDecker and asked how much the liability

*Prepared and respectfully submitted by Christine Hamilton
FMOT Secretary*

insurance would be if MOT will not cover it. I.e. how big a pile of cash are we talking about. Still no answer from either. I'll let you know if I hear anything.

- Historian (Rich Platz) – none
- Trail Report – Questions were asked about the plan for the M-53 bridge to be done by August and we have been told that this should be the case. It was also wondered if it would be a covered bridge and we believe it will be.
- Newsletter – Rich sent in an article. We are interested in articles from users of the trail. We had a guest share some of his experiences on the trail.
- New Business
 - The bicycle racks, it is decided, will be purchased and then will present the bill to the Trail Commission.
- Membership update from Dave Rumohr is that we have about 116 people being mailed and 58 of them are paid up.
- It is mentioned that there was a reporter at the last Trail Commission meeting and it was officially stated that the trial is not finished yet.
- A question is asked regarding there being grant money available to pave the whole trail. It is explained that originally the trail is supposed to have a surface similar to the Paint Creek. Communities can upgrade by paying extra to get their section paved.
- There was conversation regarding the Friends group and a very much appreciated “thank you” from a visitor.
- Dave Rumohr was sent an update from the Clinton River Trail. This was saved as a good example of a letter that could be sent out describing the status of the trail.
- A discussion is had on buying a new banner.
- It is decided the next meeting will be at the Ross Memorial Barn on August 26.
- Motion to adjourn made by Chuck Mabley and seconded by Marty Osborne. Meeting adjourned.

Next official meeting is Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at the Ross Memorial Barn (West Rd.)

Attendance (*Indicates board member)

Dave Hamilton
Chris Maliszewski
Mike Crampton
Chuck Mabley*
Marty Osborne*
Al Goetzinger
Dave Rumohr*
Lee Rumohr
Linda Hamilton
Christine Hamilton*
Dennis Tipsword*

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