

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN
Non-Motorized Trails Committee
Minutes – Jan. 19, 2021

- 1) Meeting called to order at 5:34 PM
- 2) Roll call: Committee members present were Bob Schell, Jimmy Vogel, Jim Swenson, Penny McCormick, and Anne Small. Absent was Lynn Uphagrove. Also present was Don Baumann.
- 3) Open meeting verification: Anne Small said she posted meeting agenda before 5:30 PM on January 18, 2021.
- 4) Read and approve minutes of last regular meeting: Jim Swenson asked if the donation amount from the Larsens, listed in item 6.a.iii was correct. Anne Small was unsure, but would check and then make correction. Approval of minutes was tabled until next meeting.
- 5) Citizen Concerns - none
- 6) Awassa Trail
 - a) Trail Report – Jimmy Vogel reported that trail has a good base, but we still need more snow for better trail conditions.

Anne Small said that the Plum Lake Library book walk along the green loop has drawn a lot of families and there has been a lot of positive feedback. Committee agreed that it would be nice to make this a regular part of the trail system. Jimmy Vogel said that he could construct a more permanent and sturdy frame for the signs, which would be easy to change out. Anne Small said she would check with Emilie Braunel, the librarian, to find out what sizing would be best.

Anne Small also said that she would like to see the Christmas decorations that were put out on a couple of the trees taken down. She said she was hoping the person that put them up would do that, but so far no one has done it. Penny McCormick suggested that we take them down and put in a box at trail entrance with “thank you” note for the person. Committee will wait a little longer before taking them down.

- b) Don Baumann, the town Animal Control Officer, attended meeting and gave his suggestions for curtailing the dogs-off-leash problems on the trails. He suggested signage noting that the town does have a \$162 fee for dog-off-leash. He said that adding the ordinance number and also his contact information to the sign might be helpful. Mr Baumann said that if people do run into individuals with their dogs off leash that they can get their license plate number and let him know.

Anne Small said that she would make a mock up of a sign and send out to committee members to review, then order 3 signs after approval of wording.

- 7) Fern Ridge Trail
 - a) Trail report – Jimmy Vogel noted that there had been a snowmobile that rode down the hiking trail, but that it looked like confused riders due to the reroute. Jimmy said that he would narrow the entrance next year to keep snowmobiles off of the hiking trails.

Anne Small said that we should look into rerouting the small segment of hiking trail that goes out to the old parking lot on Hwy 155 and along a small part of the snowmobile trail, so that it stays into the woods. She said it would less confusing and also noted that we had already flagged a possible route.
 - b) Mountain bike trail/fundraising update -Jimmy Vogel reported that he received the grant paperwork in the mail today and it just needs to be revied and signed. Jimmy Vogel said that he works with Jeff Penucci and Pamela Rood at the DNR. He also said that as far as construction timing, if the town were to contact Travis Bellman by mid-February, we could get locked in for work to be completed this year, if we were to contract with Bellman.

Jimmy Vogel said that we had received a \$1000 donation from the Chamber for the fundraising effort, bring the total to \$4025.

- 8) Bike & Hike Trail
 - a) Trail Report – Jim Swenson said there is no update yet from ATV Club about the north-south trail connector by Cathy's.
 - b) Applying for grant for trail along 50' corridor – Jim Swenson asked whether we should think about applying for funding for the bike trail extension this year. Jim Swenson said that a lot of people have been asking when we will get that done. Anne Small said she would reach out to George Lurvey to get an updated estimate for paved trail of both 8' and 10' widths. Jim Swenson would then ask the town board whether the town would be willing to fund the other half of project based on the rough estimate. Jimmy Vogel said that we could also apply for grant through People for Bikes organization.
- 9) Trail scavenger hunt – committee decided to wait until next year for this.
- 10) Other ideas/input from committee - none
- 11) Next committee meeting scheduled for Feb. 23, 2021, at 5:30 PM
- 12) Anne Small adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM