

**TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN**  
**Non-Motorized Trails Committee Minutes**  
**September 28, 2021**

1. Meeting called to order at 5:34 PM
2. Roll call: Present were committee members Terry Duke, Jimmy Vogel, Jim Swenson, Penny McCormick, Bob Schell, and Lynn Uthagrove. Also present were Jeanna Vogel, Kalisa Mortag, and Larry Chamberlain.
3. Open meeting verification: Anne Small posted meeting agenda before 5:00 pm on Sept 27, 2021.
4. Read and approve minutes of last regular meeting: Meeting minutes from August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were corrected to include Terry Duke as one of the present committee members. Motion made by Bob Schell, seconded by Jim Swenson to approve corrected minutes. Motion carried.
5. Citizen Concerns:
  - a. Kalisa Mortag from the Parks and Rec Committee spoke about their plans to hold a Halloween event, as part of the fundraising effort for the new skate park. She said this may take place at Fern Ridge and would include a bonfire and spook walk. She was wondering if our committee would like to join the effort. She said their next committee meeting would be October 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Larry Chamberlain spoke. Asked if we know how many cracks are in bike trail. Asked if there are any grants in the works for the trail. Asked if we thought about a membership for bike trail with premiums for members. Mentioned need for warning signs for ATV trail to alert that pedestrians share trail by Hwy 155.
6. Awassa Trail
  - a. Trail Report: No new updates
  - b. Schedule date to install new story walk frames: Jimmy Vogel finished construction on the metal frames for the story walk installments along the trail. He will coordinate with Anne Small to install them in the next week.
  - c. Emergency response plan with fire department – Jimmy Vogel said that we should contact fire chief and try to coordinate a plan in the case of emergency on trail. Jim Swenson will reach out to chief or safety instructor.
7. Fern Ridge Trail
  - a. Trail report: Lynn Uthagrove walked both loops and noted that there were no trees down for last storm. Jim Swenson said that new portable toilet was put in place and will be there year round. Swenson said that there is an added charge of \$20/month for the winter additive which should be put on agenda for October. Lynn Uthagrove also asked if we could put a garbage can there. Anne Small said she would add to agenda for October.
  - b. Mountain bike trail fundraising: Jimmy Vogel said there was nothing new as far as donations.
  - c. Mountain bike trail work update: Jimmy Vogel stated that he heard from Travis Bellman that work should begin by the end of September, but Jimmy hasn't seen any movement on the project yet.
  - d. Funding and design of kiosk at trailhead – Jimmy Vogel said he would like to reach out to a local foundation for funding of sign materials. Jimmy said he would like to see a kiosk with 4 panels. Committee members will each look for kiosk designs and report back at the October meeting with ideas.
8. Bike & Hike Trail
  - a. Trail Report: Terry Duke and Jimmy Vogel replaced the metal posts with 4x4 wood posts for the mileage signs and installed the National Recreation Trail signs on those posts. Jimmy Vogel said he was planning to mow one more time and blow the trail in the next week. Jimmy Vogel said that the new air pump at the work station malfunctioned already. The company replaced it and wanted the old pump sent back to see what was wrong with it.
  - b. Items to be placed on kiosk behind Chamber: Terry Duke said he would work on a sign for the e-bike ordinance and also for a sign with trail facts, like maintained by, cost of trail, etc. Anne Small said she would try to get a digital copy of map sign from Theresa at the Boulder Junction

Chamber, as Vilas Tourism doesn't have access to it. Anne Small will also have small sign made instructing people to call town shop for downed trees or other trail issues.

- c. Suggestions for changes to the Heart of Vilas Bike Trail website: Terry Duke said that the HOV website info on e-bikes was vague. Anne Small said she would send Terry's ebike information sheet to Cindy at Vilas Tourism to see if they can add more details to that page of their website.

9. Treasurer's report

- a. Account balances: Jeanna Vogel reported these as follows: Hike & Bike Trail - \$54,708.02, Awassa - \$3403.34, Fern Ridge - \$34,474.07
- b. Online donations: Jeanna Vogel presented information on a variety of companies that offer services to take online donations. She recommended using Give Better, which uses Apple Pay, Google Pay, Paypal and Venmo. Anne Small made motion to have Jeanna Vogel bring this before the board to proceed with setting up an account through Give Better, Bob Schell seconded. Motion carried. Jeanna asked that the committee come up with donation level ideas and let her know after discussion at October meeting.
- c. How to handle the three separate trail accounts: Jeanna Vogel said that with the change of bank ownership to Nicolet Bank, she is not sure about the fees associated with the accounts, but that maybe we should consider combining the three trail accounts and just have the amounts tracked within one account.

10. 2022 fundraising ideas and goals – Jimmy Vogel said he would like to see a raffle for next year. Committee will think about fundraising ideas and what type of item to raffle, then discuss at October meeting.

11. Planning for future trail projects – item tabled for future meeting.

12. Other ideas/input from committee – Jimmy Vogel asked if we had dates for the Candlelight event at Awassa and the Fern Ridge winter event. Committee will look at calendars for 2022 and decide at October meeting.

13. Schedule next Trails Committee meeting – scheduled for October 25, 2021, at 5:30 pm.

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM