

**Friends of the Paint Creek Trail
Held at the Paint Creek Cider Mill
August 12, 2021, 6:47-8:05 PM**

Attendance

1. Louis Carrio	Board President
2. Melissa Ford	Trail manager
3. Clara Pinkham	Board Secretary/Treasurer
4. Dan Butterworth	Board, Trail staff
5. Eva Carrio	
6. Chris Gray	Trail Asst. Manager
7. Paul Miller	Board
8. Joe Burns	
9. Jean McBride	MPG Volunteer Coordinator
10. David Walker	Rochester Hills City Council, Paint Creek Trailways Commission
11. Robyn Johnson	
12. Cory Johnson	

- ❖ Meeting called to order at 6:47 PM
- ❖ Introduction of attendees, Welcome to new members
 - Louis welcomed Robyn and Cory Johnson
- ❖ Approval of Agenda and April 8, 2021 minutes
 - Motion to accept as corrected, made by Paul Miller, second Dan Butterworth, approved unanimously
- ❖ Trail Manager's Report, Melissa Ford
 - Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk – 14th Annual (no event held in 2019 due to trail construction, or 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic); features will include a kids' art activity, information tables from the Rochester Pollinators Club and the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, refreshments.
 - Giveaway for registered participants will be a PCT car sticker and packet of Purple Coneflower seeds.
 - Monday Sept. 6 at 9AM, volunteers needed at 7 AM to set up, and no later than noon for cleanup.
 - David Walker, Paint Creek Trailways Commission, requested a sponsorship of \$250 from the Friends to help offset expenses. Louis Carrio noted the event was previously run by the Friends, but due to lack of volunteers, the event was taken over by the PCTC, with the Friends in a supporting role.
 - Paul Miller provided a brief history of the event and Labor Day.
 - Louis requested \$250 be given to the PCTC for the event. Motion made by Paul Miller, second by Dan Butterworth, approved unanimously.
 - Participants will be asked to make a donation of \$5 per family, and donations will go to support the Moutrie Pollination Garden.
 - Volunteers as of this meeting include Louis and Eva Carrio, Dan Butterworth, most likely Jean McBride, and Anne and Mike Jahn. Melissa will send out an email requesting volunteers.
 - Trail sign project – Phase 1 is almost complete, with the exception of 3 final Gateway signs and a map kiosk at the Paint Creek Junction; Phase 2 includes 12 Way-finding signs, for which funding is in place, and the information to be on the signs is expected to be finalized within the next 2 months; Phase 3 includes road crossing signs.

- Paint Creek Junction construction is underway, with an October 1 completion anticipated for most features. Permits for the restrooms have been secured; the well is done. Some funding for the water pump is being held by the Friends.
 - The DIA's Inside Out exhibits are in place and have been well received. They will remain in place until late October/early November.
 - Treatments for invasive species will be done in the next week or so per a grant from Oakland County. This will happen near Lake Orion, and south of Dutton. Barriers will be put out and signs posted to close the trail in these areas during the treatments. Signs will also warn trail users of the chemicals used.
 - Representatives from Trout Unlimited will be using stairway access to the creek with motorized canoes for maintenance. Jean McBride will work with Trout Unlimited regarding native plants.
 - Cory Johnson asked if the trail speed limit was posted. Melissa noted that the PCTC opted not to post the speed limit as it might actually encourage riders to go faster.
 - Paul Miller thanked Melissa and Chris for all of their day to day work.
- ❖ Financial Report – Clara Pinkham, secretary/treasurer
- Revenue since May 7, 2021 meeting \$1225.57, expense \$1234.76, total -\$9.19
 - Invoices presented for approval:
 - West Bend for annual insurance \$873.00, motion by Paul Miller, second by Dan Butterworth, approved unanimously;
 - Debit card for pizza for tonight's meeting, \$57.39, motion by Paul Miller, second by Dan Butterworth, approved unanimously;
 - Motion to accept financial report as presented, by Paul Miller, second by Louis Carrio, approved unanimously.
 - The PCTC will take over financial responsibility for the MPG maintenance.
 - Paul Miller asked if the \$1051.65 in restricted funds for the Ludlow Bridge could be re-directed at this time. Melissa noted that this bridge is the next to be addressed, and asked that the Friends retain those funds for now.
- ❖ Moutrie Pollinator Garden – Jean McBride
- The ribbon cutting ceremony of June 28 at 4 PM was well attended; Jean thanked David Walker for being the MC.
 - Jean noted that the garden is doing well, especially considering the very hot and humid weather of late; most of the plants from 2020 are healthy and blooming; recent heavy rain has caused some erosion on the pathway, and the moisture gets trapped in the mulch, which is perhaps too thick a layer, causing fungus and mold to grow; Paul asked if there is a layer such as cocoa shells that is less friendly to mold and fungus; a discussion about possibly adding cocoa shells in the spring ensued. Marilyn Trent from the Rochester Pollinators offered to donate 32 plants for the garden, which will be cared for and stored over the winter, and planted in the spring; there are no bugs yet on the milkweed.
 - Ken Elwert from the PCTC is working on a watering schedule, and a Kings Cove resident is currently running hoses from his home to the garden for watering.
- ❖ Motor City Brew Tours update, Louis Carrio
- Louis reported that Steve Johnson is closing his Detroit business and moving out of state.
 - A donation of \$500 was received for the May 2021 event.
 - Louis discussed the history of the annual bike ride event.
 - The question of if the Friends wants to take the event back over and continue it as a source of revenue and to promote the trail, and noted that the Friends had lost momentum in running these events; should the Friends also plan fun events, Paul asked about co-sponsoring with the local DDAs. Louis introduced Joe Burns and requested Joe's input on planning events. The subject will be further discussed at the December meeting.
- ❖ Michigan Trail Magazine and ad

- The Paint Creek Trail ad for 2022 was discussed, cost of \$375 to be paid in January; Louis presented art for the ad. The Friends receive 100 free copies of the magazine with the ad placement.
- ❖ Future meeting dates
 - December 9 for annual Pot Luck or pizza, and Officer elections for 2022
- ❖ Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:05 PM made by Paul Miller, second by Dan Butterworth, approved unanimously.

Footnotes following the meeting:

Information from Robyn Johnson, received via email August 18, 2021..There was some discussion of using coco mulch on your pollinator/native garden. We have some experience working on native gardens and, although were not experts, I think you might want to research the pros and cons of this type of mulch before using it. This is an imported product (non-native) and some of it is salt cured which could be detrimental to the plants. I don't know its impact on insects, but it can be toxic to dogs.

Following the meeting, President Carrio met with the Trailways commission and was urged to conduct the bike ride in 2022 as it is a fun event on the trail and a source of revenue for the Friends organization.

Respectfully submitted by Clara Pinkham, Secretary/Treasurer October 6, 2021