

**Friends of the Paint Creek Trail**  
**Held at the Paint Creek Cider Mill**  
**April 14, 2022, 6:30-9:15 PM**

Attendance

1. Louis Carrio	Board President
2. Mike Jahn	Board Vice-President
3. Clara Pinkham	Board Secretary/Treasurer
4. Dan Butterworth	Board, Trail staff
5. Eva Carrio	
6. Melissa Ford	Trail Manager
7. Chris Gray	Trail Asst. Manager
8. Tom Fisher	
9. Frank Della Torre	
10. Ella Della Torre	
11. Don Fenton	
12. Linda Gamage	Paint Creek Trailways Commissioner
13. Brian Pulega	
14. Jean McBride	
15. Nancy Butty	Representing Lids-for-Kids

- ❖ Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM
  - Louis welcomed everyone and acknowledged guests and new members
- ❖ Approval of Agenda and December Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to accept made by Mike Jahn, second Anne Jahn, approved unanimously
- ❖ Financial Report – Clara Pinkham, secretary/treasurer
  - Motion to accept (inc. expenditures) by Jean McBride, second Mike Jahn, approved unanimously
  - Motion was made by Anne Jahn, seconded by Jean McBride, to authorize calendar year expenditures for miscellaneous and recurring expenses up \$200 and \$1,200 in the aggregate, with retrospective Board approval. Motion was approved unanimously.
- ❖ Trail Manager’s Report, Melissa Ford
  - Reported on sign installations. All commented favorably.
  - Of the two grant proposals prepared to obtain needed engineering analysis for 31.7 bridge, the \$25,000 grant has been approved; Funds held by the Friends will be disbursed in May.
  - The Trailways Commission is expected to review and select the replacement for Chris Gray at the May meeting.
  - Dine-to-Donate is planned for May 22 at Oat Soda; Announcement coming soon.
  - The membership acknowledged the long term support received from Ms. Gray and presented a thank you card along with a Paint Creek Trail Four Season Trivet.
- ❖ Tour de Trail was discussed extensively and members made several suggestions to clarify the event poster. Tom Fisher, member of the planning group, explained the Bike Rodeo. The need for support staff was discussed and a more detailed list of requirements is forthcoming. Tom Fisher took extensive notes that will be incorporated into the Planning Document to be provided separately.
- ❖ Lids-for-kids, Nancy Butty, explained how the organization distributes bike helmets and fittings to encourage safety. They have received a \$2,000 grant from the Community Foundation and are seeking an additional \$3,000 to acquire the nearly 500 they want to distribute. The Friends previously donated \$2,500 to support the initiative. A motion was made to authorize by Dan Butterworth, seconded by Mike Jahn, to donate \$3,000 subject to reciprocal arrangement that would support awareness and interest in Friends membership. Motion was approved unanimously. See email attached for outcome.
- ❖ Moutrie Pollinator Garden-Jean McBride gave a garden update and plans to have staff at the MPG on June 4<sup>th</sup> to include master gardener(s) if possible. The need for plant replacement, additional plants and

supplies was discussed. Ms McBride was authorized by Trail and Friends management to make reasonable expenditures for reimbursement by the PCT.

- ❖ Friends of the Paint Creek Trail Organizational Issues as outlined in the attachment.
  - Topic introduced by Louis Carrio, President. Our objective was primarily to raise funds in support of the Trail, to provide some maintenance of the trail and to make improvements to the Trail in cooperation with the Trail Commission. Many of the Friends group in the beginning had various skills and links to other organizations that helped to manage the Friends group. For example, Kristen Myers was the Trail Manager but was also on the Friends group Board. Since then, many of these original members have left the organization and a lot of skills and connections have been lost. The 501c3 designation also has many requirements that takes added time to maintain. Government forms, filings, etc. are required.
  - Louis Carrio reported he previously presented these concerns to the Trail Commission in recent meetings and has expressed concerns about the future of the (Friends) organization. Having lost the skills and the people from the earlier organization, a lot of effort is required to maintain the paperwork, the 501c3 workload, the website, the accounting, insurance, etc. to run this business. In addition, membership has not been very robust in general. Some members are members in name only and do not attend the meetings. Many people would like to help with trail activities but are not interested in the business side of the organization.
  - Linda Gamage asked if we need to be a 501c3 organization. Louis commented that it helps with donations. As an example, we just received an unsolicited donation of \$500 from a person on December 29. Louis mentioned that it probably helps with obtaining liquor and raffle licenses also, but its not clear that would be a barrier. Jean McBride asked how many members we now have. Louis commented that we have members that attend the meetings and others that do not. (Attendance at this meeting was 15 total including a guest presenter}
  - Ella Della Torre asked if we have advertised the organization. Louis mentioned flyers that we have printed in addition to the website. Linda Gamage asked if we charged for membership. Louis responded” No”. Linda also suggested we try to tie an event to a membership drive so that people come to hear a presenter (for example) and then sign up for the Friends group.
  - Frank Della Torre suggested a table at the Rochester Farmers Market.
  - Chris Gray mentioned that the Clinton River Friends group has had success with bringing in presenters for meetings and gathering membership from that. Melissa Ford mentioned that an OU professor might be a possible presenter. Don Fenton suggested that many companies have expertise we might be able to tap into on a temporary basis to update websites, etc. that would allow the company to take tax credits. Louis mentioned that local students might also be a possible resource. Louis asked Don to investigate this further.
  - Linda Gamage asked if we had a mission statement. Louis read off the Friends group statement.
  - Mike Jahn summarized that we have two key issues- 1) Is the 501c3 designation needed? And 2) How can get a more robust membership that supports the needed tasks and places less load on the existing membership. Dan Butterworth volunteered that he has some web skills and file management expertise that might be of some help. Louis will discuss offline with him. Clara suggested conducting meetings in a restaurant to generate interest in the group. Melissa Ford mentioned they have a Dine and Donate meeting offsite at the Oat Soda bar. Louis also is investigating a year end Friends group meeting at Oat Soda.

(Recorded at the meeting by Mike Jahn 04/14/22)

- ❖ 2022 meeting dates are:  
May 12 to prepare for Tour de Trail; August 11 to prepare for LDBW, Tuesday, December 6 for the annual meeting and elections. Members liked the idea of going out for the meeting and Oat Soda was mentioned as a possibility.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:41 PM by Louis Carrio, second by Anne Jahn, approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Clara Pinkham, Secretary/Treasurer      DRAFT 4/16/2022