

Rail 66 Country Trail

Eleventh Annual Public Membership Meeting

May 19, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

1. The meeting was brought to order by President Vince DiStefano. He encouraged those present to sign up for volunteer opportunities or to update their email.
2. **Legal Review and Discussion of By-Laws:** Al Lander noted that the election of three directors would be held at this annual meeting. Vince DiStefano, Trudy Alexander and Greg Borland have been nominated for an additional three year term. Nominations from the floor were opened. No other nominations were put forward and nominations were closed. Paper ballots were distributed to the members. Following voting, ballots were collected.
3. **Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting:** Minutes of last year's meeting were available to the membership. Bill Moore motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Greg Borland seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes as presented.
4. **Financial Report:** Sue Patton distributed handouts of the financial report to the membership. From January to December of 2023 the net income was \$28,130.49. Our current liabilities and equity are \$ 1,221,101.68. There are no outstanding bills at this time.
5. **Election Results:** Vince DiStefano, Trudy Alexander and Greg Borland were all reelected to an additional three year term as directors.
6. **Election of Officers:** Tim Heubert moved and Greg Borland seconded a motion to maintain the current directors for an additional year. All were in favor.
7. **Update on Trail Construction and Maintenance:** Greg offered updates on the following items:
 - a. **Gates:** The prison in Marienville is repainting all gates at a cost of \$5.00 each. There are 49 sets of gates. Some have been completed and reinstalled. This is an ongoing project.
 - b. **Sealing of the trail:** IA is available for the crack sealing of the trail.
 - c. **Trimming:** Trimming of the trail will occur from the train station in Lucinda to the Marianne trail head. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Greg if you are able to assist.
8. **Cook Forest Connector Signage:** Ken stated that Tom's Run has been designated as a bike trail in Cook Forest. There will be signs to indicate how to connect with Rail 66. In addition, Trudy has signage from Lumber Heritage. This will be placed at the Marianne Trail Head.
9. **Meeting with Donna Oberlander:** Greg spoke with Donna Oberlander regarding safety concerns at two places on the trail. The trail crossing near Snydersburg and another crossing at Arnold Avenue are dangerous. A speed study has been requested. This study is needed before a flashing sign could be installed to reduce speed at these crossings.
10. **Trail Extension from Marianne to Knox:** Al gave an update on this project. One of the issues with this project is that the rail bed was not rail banked and ownership of some sections was conveyed back to the landowner when the railroad was removed. Permission of the landowner is needed to develop the trail. Al is working on this and has obtained permission from some landowners. In addition, a township road through Game land 63 needs to be annulled and then turned over to the game commission before the trail can be developed. The citizens of Elk Township need to contact the township supervisors and let them know they are supporting the trail. Al will prepare a petition for them to gain support.
11. **Fund Raising:** Vince stated that we will be selling raffle tickets again this year at Autumn Leaf Festival for an e-bike. He also noted that we are open to any other fundraising ideas.

- 12. Time Trial Bike Race:** Tony Linnan gave an update on the 3rd annual race. It will be held on Saturday June 8th as part of the Clarion Summerfest weekend. There are currently 18 people registered and he is looking for around 50 to register. He stated that Greg will take care of cleaning the trail before the race, Kathy will organize volunteers for registration and Ken is coordinating volunteers for the road crossings. Janney Montgomery is the major sponsor again this year. Sheriff Sean Zerfoss will provide a deputy on the day of the race.
- 13. Cleveland Clinic Fundraiser:** Bill Rogers spoke about a fundraiser for cancer at the Cleveland Clinic. He is selling Be Outspokin for Cancer stickers for \$5.00. All proceeds will go to research and clinical trials for cancer at Cleveland Clinic.
- 14. Guest Books:** Vince addressed a question from the floor. He noted that the guest books along the trail were removed for winter but are now back in place. Eighteen different states are represented in the guest books.
- 15. Adjournment:** Tim moved and Greg seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Linnan, Secretary