

Springfield Trails & Rural Economy Committee Meeting
July 28th, 2022
5:30 PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:43 PM.

Roll Call— Present were Jim Fog (presiding), Josephine Hingston, Kristi Morris (ex officio), John Bond, Bettina McCrady and Chuck Gregory.

Announcements— Jim Fog announced that Christian Craig of the Edgar May Recreation Center said that for online registration for the Toonerville Trail Walk/Run they will no longer use the customary Internet provider due to technical issues, but will be switching to a provider named “Run Red.” The tentative date of the Walk/Run is September 17th. John Bond reported on the progress of installing the trailhead kiosks— The one at the Rte. 5/Inserstate is in abeyance until both DigSafe and I-91 construction/redesign issues are clarified; the one at the Hartness Park water tower site will be delayed until the town has done re-grading work there in the near future. The one at the Dell Road site will be installed presently, probably before the next committee meeting.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes — The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted (McCrady/Hingston). Passed unanimously.

Old Business—

—Status of work on invasive species funded by VOREC grant. Barbara Schultz provided this report in absentia:

Update on VOREC Invasive Plant Funds:

There is \$2,500 in the VOREC grant available for this work, if spent by December.

As mentioned in a previous meeting, no contractor has yet responded to the Request for Proposals. In June, I contacted the three potential contractors I had reached out to originally. One was shifting to self-employment in May, and continues to be interested in doing the work.

I’ve talked about this with Chris Merrill. Chris was going to discuss with Jeff Mobus whether the bid deadline could be extended, or other possibilities for negotiating a contract. I don’t know the outcome as of this email.

I recommend that a priority for using these funds would be to clean up the area on the Toonerville Trail, north of the Memorial Garden. A knowledgeable contractor would be able to control invasive plants in a way that would allow native species to be more successful.

Josephine reported an update from Barbara: One contractor has responded, and she is willing to go forward with the work.

Moved to authorize Barbara Schultz to spend the allotted VOREC funds as needed to implement the work (Hingston/McCrary). Passed unanimously.

New Business—

—Detailed discussion of the 5k walk/run event. Jim said the committee had to consider the acquisition or purchase of a timer sufficient to the needs of the race. Jim said he will contact the rental source. Kristi Morris provided the information off the Internet.

Event Volunteers: Bettina volunteered to recruit volunteers. Jim specified the minimum number needed— preparatory work, registration, hydration stations, cleanup, traffic directors, a probable minimum of ten. Jim provided Bettina with some names and asked all to recruit volunteers. Bettina asked Jim to make a spreadsheet with the tasks so that committee members can plug in the names of the people who volunteer for each. Jim said he could provide a list rather than a spreadsheet.

Bibs and T-shirts: Jim will arrange for the acquisition of those.

Pre-race kiddies' Fun Run: There might be a Fun Run held at 8:15 or 8:30 before the 9:00 AM event.

Sound system: Jim will contact the Boosters' Club for a PA system.

Tables: Jim said he has five tables, which should be sufficient.

Souvenirs: Josie Hingston provided a link to a source for wooden whistles which could be imprinted with the event's name and date, suitable for handing out to the youngest participants,

Literature: Printing will be donated for the flyers. John Bond and Bettina will design and print the literature. Jim said this year is the 125th anniversary of the building of the trolley line which was called The Toonerville Trail.

Porta-potty: John Bond will call to secure a Porta-potty rental.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 (McCrary/Bond). Passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 11th, 5:30 PM, at the town offices.

Agenda:

Call to Order

Roll Call

Announcements

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Old Business:

Update on Toonerville Trail Walk/Run preparations

Update on invasive species work

Update on installation of kiosk

New Business

Respectfully submitted,

chuck gregory, secretary