

Friends of the Waverly Trails

Minutes of the meeting on 16 Feb. 2005

The meeting of the Friends of the Waverly Rail Trail was called to order at 7 PM at City Hall.

1. Candlelight Ski Event evaluation:
 - a. We ended up skiing on the last Sat. in Jan. even though we waited for snow before settling on a date. Since the availability of snow is the primary factor, we decided to wait for snow again next year.
 - b. Maybe we can use the new shelter next year for a combined welcome center and cocoa dispenser. Kim did some welcoming and orienting for the first arrivals that proved to be very helpful.
 - c. Since we had to delay the event when the weather got too cold, we had more publicity and that helped increase the turnout.
 - d. People kept coming after our announced end time. Maybe having 2 shifts at the bonfire and the welcome spot would share the work better.
 - e. We should meet again in November to plan and to reorder supplies such as candles.
2. Trail Shelter:
 - a. This spring we hope to pave the floor, bring in electricity, and bring in water. Plans are to have a drinking fountain that also has a dog dish and a tap to fill water bottles.
 - b. Tab will see how much the Lions club wants to help us with.
 - c. A plaque proposal was presented by Dave Walston to honor the Lions Club for their help with the shelter and to commemorate the funds from RAGBRAI and local donors that are available for trail improvements. At present the funds are nearly \$20,000.
 - d. Cost estimates for shelter completion:
 - I. Water line, winterized fountain and plumbing: \$3000.
 - II. 2 Display cases: \$3 -\$4000.
 - III. Electricity: ?
 - IV. Plaques: \$1000.
3. Signage:
 - a. A Waverly Rail Trail sign at Killdeer parking lot was suggested.
 - b. 2 banners, one at Bremer Ave. and one at 1st Ave. SE were suggested.
 - c. Some of the mile markers could be repaired.
4. Trail improvements:
 - a. Gene suggested a pit toilet at the Killdeer parking lot similar to the ones at Babcock Woods. Sharon and Kim will check these out and Tab will check with the County Conservation Department about construction costs.
 - b. Some of the money could be used on the trail on the west side of the river.
 - c. Gene has an iron grill that he will move to the shelter.
5. A grand opening celebration for the shelter was proposed. Music, picnic, pancake breakfast were some of the suggestions. A tentative date of June 18 was set, depending on when the above improvements can be made. We will continue planning. We need to check for conflicts with other events.
6. Our next meeting will be Wed. Mar. 30 at 7 PM. We will work on grand opening plans and set a time for a Trail Work Day.

Jim Rathe