

MECCA Monthly Meeting Minutes
MECCA Chalet
Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Call to Order, roll - Jerry Leiterman, Norm Mckindles, Rodney Silvis, LeAnn Silvis, Tim Lutgen, Bernie Langrick, Monica Mears, Larry Testin, and Diane O'Krongly.

Approval of Minutes from 13SEP2023 meeting (sent via email) No discussion - LeAnn Silvis made the motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Norm.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report (sent via email)

- Larry Testin made motion to approve and seconded by Diane O'Krongly made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report for September

Old Business

- John Olson – New board member replacing Chad McGrath

Equipment Storage Building

- Two motions were presented to the membership to approve new equipment shed and begin a capital campaign to raise funds for this project. Membership agreed not to start the building project until sufficient funds are in the bank to pay for the construction.
- Mercer Sanitary District approached for easement for building location of new equipment shed. Mercer Sanitary District agreed to allow us to have an easement but the specific form (easement vs deed) has not yet been determined.
- Town is evaluating options and waiting for a legal opinion from the town attorney.

Mercer Library "Story Walk"

- The signs have been installed for about one month and the walk appears to be quite popular.
- Theresa is also providing us with technology education to move our documents to a file system in the cloud.

Committee Reports

Facilities - Diane O'Krongly:

- The Firewood project is done with a surplus of wood this year.
- Diane is looking for volunteers to help with the annual cleaning of the Chalet during the next few weeks.
- The 125 gal LP tank is being delivered tomorrow so that we don't have to manually refill the smaller tanks.

Finance - Sondra Brown (not present):

- Electronic payment system is working without any problems.

Membership – Diane has volunteered to coordinate membership activities for this year

- Diane has indicated some interest in taking on the membership tracking task. She will discuss it with Jerry.

Outreach (Promotions) - Mike Shouldice (absent)

- We need to update our brochures with our current fee schedule and new payment QR codes
- Mercer Chamber of Commerce will host the Live at Five celebration on Wednesday, Dec 5th at the Chalet

Special Events - Rodney Silvis: 2024 Winterfest Updates

- Newsletters have been sent out and more are planned
- Sponsorships are looking favorable for Winterfest
- Rodney is going to promote matching to encourage more people to donate
- Advertising has begun and will include radio and various publications
- Rodney is looking for more volunteer support this year during the Winterfest event

Trails and Equipment - Norm McKindles & Bernie Langrick

- Hazard and problem trees have been removed
- Trails and wetlands have been mowed
- Snowshoe trails still need trails to be inspected for downed trees, new trail maps posted, refresh trail markers and trim berry plants.
- New Gator arrives tomorrow and then it needs to be wired for the grooming implements.
- Adjustments to the storage shed might be required to park the new Gator because it is taller than the existing one.
- Osprey Loop drifting issues – DNR does not want us to move trails to the west into the prairie because of the potential of spreading invasive plants. The DNR has suggested planting shrubs to control the drifting. MECCA volunteers would be responsible for planting. Further discussion with DNR will occur.

New Business

- A Capital campaign committee needs to be formed and volunteers are needed.
- MECCA has been awarded a Recreational Trail Grant in the amount of \$10,064 for 2023. The grant reimburses volunteer and equipment time maintaining trails. Important that all time spent maintaining trails (grooming, brushing, signing, mowing and hazard tree removal) is logged accurately.
- Mike Shouldice has requested that MECCA join the Hurley and Mercer Chamber of Commerce. Request is based on increased membership and increased advertising. In Mike's absence, Jerry has requested the motion. Norm made a motion to approve of this motion and it was seconded by Rodney. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Jerry asked for input on the best time and dates for meetings and work bees. The discussion favored a 5:30PM start time for the monthly meetings. Norm proposed monthly meetings during the fall and winter but less often in the spring and summer. The next meeting will be held at 5:30PM 05DEC2023.

Adjournment - Norm McKindles made a motion to adjourn the meeting and LeAnn seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Minutes recorded by Tim Lutgen