

**Friends of the Pere Marquette  
Rail Trail (FPMRT)  
Annual Meeting  
Thursday, August 11, 2022  
Creative 360- Midland, MI**

- ✓ **Call to Order- Mark Maxwell**
  - Meeting called to order at 5:39pm
- ✓ **Welcome to guests and friends of the trail- Maxwell**
  - Several people in attendance and it is great to see!
- ✓ **Introduction of FPMRT Board of Directors**
  - We stood or waved a hand when introduced
- ✓ **Overview of Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail organization and mission- Maxwell**
  - Slide showing history
  - Presented “Distinguished Friend of the Trail” to Mark McCartney & posthumously to Joe Malan (for his 2 adult children)
  - Clarification on our role VS the City/County’s role on maintenance of trail
    - Friends gifts to City & Counties(including Isabella) include Asphalt sealing machine, 4 wheel utility vehicle among many others
- ✓ **Approval of March Minutes- Board**
  - Deferred to September meeting
- ✓ **Membership Report- Maxwell**
  - 171 members (up 6 from 2021) and 44 Lifetime Members
- ✓ **Treasurer’s Report- Matt Stedry**

- Increase in contributions affected our total income going up
  - Total assets \$81,780, Income \$10,065
  - YTD total assets \$87,820, Net Income \$6,040
- Currently have ~\$37,000 in cash in checking, ~\$50,000 in CD's at 2 banks
- Donated 3 wheel bikes to Senior Services Center totaling \$1,915 and \$500 to Little Forks to share cost of Handicap pot-a-john at Averill Trailhead
- Matt shared that when he took over from Joe Malan, Joe felt strongly that our funds need to go back to the trail. Matt keeps that memory at the front whenever we discuss special projects to give to. We have a strong financial position and will focus on that for 2023

✓ **Secretary's Report- Shelley Hobbs**

- Shelley shared difficulty in dealing with Huntington, shared information on 3 different financial institutions that serve both Midland & Saginaw (Treasurer works in Saginaw, Shelley lives in Midland) due to convenience for Secretary & Treasurer to get to.
- Schoenherr motioned to move banking relationship to Isabella Bank, McCartney seconded, all voted in favor of moving the checking and CD's (as they mature) to Isabella Bank. Due diligence to be done around CD rates. If higher rates elsewhere, money will be moved accordingly

✓ **Friends of Clare County P&R Update- Don Kolander**

- Don gave an overview of the history of the trail in Clare County and the issues they have worked on overcoming to ensure the "gap" through Clare gets addressed & fixed. Once

again, the project has been postponed until Spring 2023. Initially postponed due to Covid and then last year due to the flooding. The bids from contractors must be in by 12/01/22, the bid will be awarded in February 2023. Construction to begin Spring 2023.

- Don introduced Emily Schaefer (representing the Clare County Community Foundation which is a part of the Midland Area Community Foundation) who explained why the Foundation is now involved in the process. The project funds will be disbursed as needed once the construction begins in spring 2023. It provides a clean avenue for payment to all contractors during the construction. All excess funds will be deposited into an endowment fund (for ongoing future repairs of the trail)
- Don also reminded riders to be extremely careful with traffic near the gap which starts near the Depot.

✓ **Midland County Update- John Schmude**

- Crack sealing is done on the trail. Asphalt sealing to be done from Geneva Rd. to Lewis Rd.
- Trust fund grant for \$300,000 approved. Total cost of project is \$500,000. First part of repairs from Dublin to Pioneer. Trying to standardize signage, bollards, etc.
- Bailey Bridge reconstruction coming. It is a key connector for connecting the 3 trails. This is part of a long process & 2 phase study on how to connect (Bay City, Saginaw, Midland). The bridge project will cost about \$4.6 million dollars to redo it. Kochville towards Midland will be connected. The bridge is owned by Midland Co. Road commission.

✓ **Howard's Friend Ride- Shelley Schoenherr**

- Shelley gave history of the ride. This years ride had 35 sponsors (\$6500) and ~200 riders. The total contribution to Friends from the ride was \$9,578.86!!! Over the 10 years that the ride has been done a total contribution to Friends has been almost \$50,000! Thank you so much to Shelley & her family and their hard work and dedication. It is so appreciated.

✓ **Old Business-**

- Mark showed picture of the Senior Services bike shelter that was built for our donations. Because the bikes are 3 wheeled and offer limited mobility access, everyone is very excited and the official kickoff for the seniors to be able to ride the new bikes is August 15<sup>th</sup>! There will be an official ribbon cutting to commemorate the new structure and pavilion (other local donations went into those) on September 7<sup>th</sup> and we need a board member to attend (Shelley & Maxwell are both out of town). Please reach out to us to let us know if you can make it
- ✓ Over this past year we have had 3 supporters of the Trail pass away and asked for memorial donations to the Trail. Malan, McInerney & Cappo. Mrs. Cappo and her son were in attendance and are working with the City to put together a memorial in his memory. The funds we have collected for them will go towards that memorial. Mr. Malan's family is working with the County to do something in Joe's name.

✓ **New Business/Roundtable/Q&A**

- *The Baker* fall ride will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>. It came about due to a tragic accident that killed a friend and family member in the Lansing area. They love our Rail Trail as it offers a safe and friendly space to have a family group ride. The ride starts at the Doherty in Clare. Don offered to help the group.
  - There will be further discussion around safety and sharing of the trail. Bikers get frustrated as walkers/runners and others aren't aware of their presence as they come up behind them. Should we put a strip down the middle of the trail? Other ways to bring this to people's attention?
- ✓ **Remaining 2022 FPMRT Board Meeting Dates**
- **September meeting- TBD**
  - **Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>- 5:30pm- Pizza Sam's**

**Attendees:**

Hobbs; Kolander; Maxwell; McCartney; Schoenherr; Schmude; Stedry; Stewart

Guests: Emily Schaefer, MACF, Cappo Family, Friends of Baker

**Adjourn:** 7:10pm