

**FRIENDS OF THE CASEY JONES TRAIL ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 25, 2020
MINUTES**

The Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association convened regular session on November 25, 2020 via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Members present: Mick Myers, Deb Nelson, Lori Gunninck, James Jens, Colleen Tollefson, Jakob Etrheim, Jessica Welu, Chris Ingebretsen and Mike Zinnel.

APPROVE AGENDA

Deb stated she would like to amend the agenda by adding "Social Media" under Business. Motion was made by Lori, seconded by Mike and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Deb, seconded by Colleen and unanimously carried to approve the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes.

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jakob stated two bills were received after the last meeting which were from TLC Lawn Care in the amount of \$110.00 for spraying at the Lake Wilson trailhead and the final law mowing bill from Kindel Nelson in the amount of \$100.00.

Donations were received as follows:

- \$5.65 from Amazon Smiles
- \$1,000.00 from Bruce and Barbara Jensen
- \$80.00 from Give to the Max Day

There are a total of 34 members – 29 individual/family, 5 businesses, 13 in Murray County, 10 in Pipestone County, 3 in Redwood County, 4 in surrounding counties, 2 elsewhere in MN and 2 outside of MN.

There is a total of \$10,340.99 in the checking account of which \$1,000.00 is earmarked for the bench fund.

Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Deb and unanimously carried to approve Treasurer and Membership report.

BUSINESS

Mick shared that Dan Wildermuth had gone to Savage to pick up the trailhead sign for Lake Wilson and is storing it in his garage until we can get it put up in the Spring.

Status of Letter of Intent for Transportation Alternatives Funding

Deb informed the Board that Jessica, Rosemary, Kent Skaar, Mick and herself met to review the Letter of Intent for Transportation Alternatives funding which is a necessary step before submitting the Letter of Intent. She said the LOI is for funding for paving that last two miles to Woodstock only. If there is any money left, the small parking lot in Woodstock might be able to be paved as well.

Mike asked where the parking lot was located with Deb stating it is on the south side of the trail in Woodstock. Mike then shared Susan Wienands had talked to him stating she would consider donating the land she owns next to the trail in Woodstock and could we use that for the parking lot. Deb said that Susan had talked to her in the past wanting to sell the Friends the piece of land and was asking top dollar for it. She reminded Board members that the Friends could not own property and recommended that Mike talk with Susan to see exactly what she wants to do with the land and then talk directly with Kent Skaar.

Jessica informed the Board that the LOI had been submitted and the final application is due January 8th. She stated she has already been working on the full application and feels we should submit it to Kent before Christmas to get his input on the application to meet the January 8th deadline date.

Deb and Jessica will meet next week to work on the application.

4-H Community Grant Opportunity

Deb shared she had been informed of a community grant opportunity through the 4-H that can be used for community service projects involving the local 4-H. She will get the information and present it at the next meeting.

Chris informed Lori that the revised Joint Powers Agreement for mowing of the Lake Wilson segment was completed and had sent it to Tom. Lori asked Chris to forward it to her and she would see that Samantha got it as Tom has been out of the office.

Letters and Resolutions of Support

Deb said she had received 4 resolutions/letters as of today.

Colleen reminded the Board of the importance of having all communities (cities, counties, townships) on the trail submit a letter or resolution of support. She also suggested gathering them from businesses, Chamber of Commerces, campgrounds, etc.

Task Force Sign Up

The following four Task Forces are partially filled and we are looking for additional volunteers to fill some spots:

1. Funding Task Force – SRDC (Jessica Welu), Deb Nelson, Colleen Tollefson, Mick Myers and Jakob Etrheim.
2. Acquisition Task Force – Mike Zinnel, Colleen Tollefson, Elicia Kordes, Stephanie Korver and Bruce Johnson.
3. PR and Communications – Jessica Welu with SRDC, Mick Myers and Jakob Etrheim.
4. Government Relations – Deb Nelson, Lori Gunninck and Jim Jens.

Bonding Request

It was discussed that our bonding request needs to be big. Boardmembers will put together a laundry list of items including land acquisition; finish paving the trail to and pave the small parking lot in Woodstock; funds to conduct an engineering study along Highway 30 between the Pipestone/Murray county line to just West of the Lake Wilson segment. We can then begin putting pressure on our legislators of the importance for them to author and FULLY SUPPORT our request through the entire bonding process.

Jessica suggested to begin working with MnDOT as Highway 75 is listed as a priority corridor and it would be an ideal time to start working with them.

Clarification on Social Media

Deb asked for clarification on who was taking care of our Facebook page and who was taking care of the website.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17th at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Deb Nelson
Secretary