

MINUTES OF ITS TRAIL COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING - DECEMBER 2 2008

Directors Present: Russ Masinelli, Nelson Grman, Larry Leone, Jarid Ott, Bill Vogt, Bryan Siegfried, Paul Skeans, John Fritsche.

Directors excused: Poonam Jain

Directors Absent: none

Also Present: Sandra Lane & Rande Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Pres. Russell Masinelli

Meeting Minutes

The 09-02-08 meeting minutes were reviewed. After minor corrections, Nelson Grman moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Larry Leone and passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Sandra Lane delivered the current financial statement of the ITS Trail Committee.

Bank Balance Aug. 31, 2008	\$ 23,420.68
Recepits	\$ 530.00
Disbursements	\$ 648.94
Bank Balance Nov. 30, 2008	\$ 23,301.74

Motion by Jarid Ott, 2nd by Paul Skeans to accept, motion carried by roll call vote.

IDNR Grant

The final IDNR grant application was delivered on April 8th, 2008. Nothing further to report at this time.

Executive Director's Report

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant has been approved. The request for payment is the comptroller's office waiting to be funded.

Membership Update- Membership letters were mailed in June to all current and former members, As well as a follow-up Email on Oct. 3, 2008 to those who had not paid. Of the 95 members we had, 63 have paid for a total of \$2,540.00 in membership payments plus \$435.00 in donations.

Correspondence was sent to George Camille with Norfolk and Southern Railroad on June 25, 2008. Jarid received a call in July indicating that N&S was concentrating on providing rail service for mine development near Hillsboro. He is still working on our request for a lease of railroad property between Staunton and Benld and will keep us informed on a timely basis. Russ and Jarid had an informal Meeting with Mr. Camille on Sept. 22, 2008 and he again affirmed that N-S's position is NOT to release ANY of the property for sale at this time. He suggested a top down approach on our behalf. Russ is working on getting an appointment Senator Durbin to explain our situation and to ask him to contact the CEO of the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

The Worden-Staunton trail is complete with many riders and walkers. The dedication scheduled for Oct. 24, 2008 was cancelled due to the weather. An introduction to the Trail even for Area Youth was held on October 25, 2008. Nelson gave a welcome & short introduction to the Trail. Jarid gave the background info of the ITS, trains, etc. The children and parents then walked or rode the trail. Upon their return, hot dogs, Chips and soda were given to all who participated; compliments of the city of Staunton.

Web Site- Rande Johnson met the Dr. Siegfried and was able to learn the inner workings of our web site. Rande stated the learning curve was fairly short for him thanks to Dr. Siegfried's efforts.

Rande has done a tremendous job of adding new information and articles.

Promotional items for sale:

1. ITS decal – 4
2. ITS vests – 1S/M; 1 L/XL
3. ITS Tee Shirts- 3 XXL.
4. ITS Polo shirts- 4-L.

The request for exemption form Ill. Sales Tax has been submitted to the Illinois Dept. of Revenue and confirmation of receipt has been received.

Committee reports:

Events

The Illinois Traction Society annual meeting is April 25, 2009 at Concordia Hall in Staunton. Jarid is working with Dale Jenkins with the IT Society and members of the Macoupin County Genealogical Society to coordinate the event.

Trivia Night- Scheduled for Jan. 17, 2009 at Turner Hall in Mt Olive. Bill Vogt can be contacted for further information.

Fund Raising and Promotions

1. Grocery bags were discussed further.
2. Bike Safety clinic coming in April with Bike Registration.

Old Business

The 501 (3) status paperwork has been completed, submitted and a confirmation letter has been Received from the Department of the Treasury indicating that the application was received by them and we will hear from them within 60 days. Rick Verticchio's office has been notified about the letter. Received letter from IRS dated Nov. 19, 2008 indicated we need to amend our Articles of Incorporation to include wording which would allow us to meet the organizational test for exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The necessary paperwork has been completed and submitted to the Illinois Secretary of State to record that amendment.

ITS signs along Union Street are to be installed by city workers. Total cost of the signs was \$270.94. Approval of the expenditure to acquire these signs was by Email with positive responses from Skeans, Vogt, Grman, Fritsche, Jain & Ott.

New Business

With our meetings being changed to quarterly, our next meeting in March will be our annual membership meeting, at which time we elect or re-elect members to the board. Those members whose terms expire in 2009 are Siegfried, Leone, and Fritsche. All three members have indicated their desire to stand for re-election to the board.

The next meeting will be March 3, 2009. This will be our annual members meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jarid Ott, seconded by Bryan Siegfried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Bill Vogt-Secretary