

**Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail**  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2022**  
**Electronic meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by Vice-chair Char Conger.

Members present: Vice-chair Car Conger, Treasurer Caroline Owens, Secretary Steve Lotz, Nancy Salminen, & Bill Parker.

Minutes for the January 12, 2022 meeting having been distributed previously, motion by Caroline Owens, second by Bill Parker, to approve the minutes as distributed, all aye, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report for January showed a balance of \$18,485.92 as of 1-31-2022. Motion by Nancy Salminen, second by Bill, to approve the Treasurer's report, all aye, motion carried.

Audit committee report – Steve Lotz stated that having reviewed the beginning and ending statements, the registers for the Bank and PayPal, and the Treasurer's report for 2021 as provided by Treasurer Caroline Owens as well as having reviewed the 2021 minutes to determine expenditures were approved/reported he would concur with Nancy in declaring the Treasurer's books in order with the assumption that the date shown on the last two entries on the FB&T register are typos and should read 1/13/2022. Caroline stated that the two dates should read 2022 and had been corrected. Motion by Nancy, second by Bill, to declare the Treasurer's books in order, all aye, motion carried.

Insurance – at present the Directors & Officers liability insurance is being billed in four payments of \$236.00 while payment of the annual total was approved in December. Thus the Treasurer may pay the full balance remaining at the next quarterly billing.

Steve reported on the electronic meeting that he and Carol Booth had with Amy Marrier of MN DNR Lands & Minerals about DNR concerns regarding our proposed trail route to the north of the Tower DNR buildings. Amy reported that the proposed route presently flagged that runs between the Tower DNR buildings and State Highways 1 & 169 is not acceptable to the DNR and not a topic of discussion. She suggested two alternatives. Option 1 is to follow the high voltage lines from the point where the current flagged route intersects the power lines in a straight line to state Highway 135. The State would require security fencing along the trail going past the DNR complex. Option 2 is to stay on the high ground and continue east until intersecting the Taconite Trail and parallel that trail down to the power lines and follow the power lines to 135. Option 1 would have considerable wetland impact. A modified option 1 that would duck south back into the woods and work along the base of the slope above the wet areas may be a possibility. Option 2 would add a fourth trail to the Taconite, Prospector, and Tower Ski Trails in a relatively narrow draw climbing the hill. A modified option 2 that continues east across the three trails and finds another way down to 135 may be possible. Any further flagging will require a DNR permit and as a practical matter the snow depth at present will be a problem.

Char spoke with Jason Metsa and he suggested using a strategy of smaller funding requests to build a start with the Legislature as getting some money would open the door. Rob Ecklund's support would be helpful.

Sample easement language for the Kinneberg parcel will take some work. Steve will follow up with several communications Carol had in December.

Earthfest – Char will be there anyway wearing another hat and will set up a table. Earthfest is set for April 23 in Mountain Iron.

Bill, Caroline, and Char will get the donors spreadsheet caught up.

Char reported that Mark Bakk of Lake Country Power remains interested in assisting with a physical project.

There was discussion again about a canopy of our own. Char noted that she fielded a number of State Farm questions at Timber Days last year.

Char has found access to the USFS basement room of the LVRA is problematic to the point that she has offered storage space in a hanger at the Cook Airport.

Char indicated she would invite Miranda Kishel to the March meeting as a prospective board member.

Char will contact Rebecca of the Blandin Foundation when she is in Grand Rapids about administrator funding.

Natural Harvest roundup program – Bill will be applying annually.

Next meeting is set for March 9 at 3:00 pm and will be conducted electronically.

There being no further business, motion by Caroline, second by Bill, to adjourn, all ayes, motion carried at 4:01 pm.

Steven Lotz, secretary