

**Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2023**  
**Electronic meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm by Chair Carol Booth.

Members present: Chair Carol Booth, Vice-chair Bill Parker, Treasurer Caroline Owens, & Secretary Steve Lotz. Also present contractor Mandie Aalto.

Minutes for the June 14 meeting having been distributed previously, motion by Carol, second by Caroline, to approve the minutes as distributed, all ayes, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report for June showed no activity for June and an ending balance of \$47,841.97. Bill asked about interest presently being received, which was reported as none. Bill suggested looking at CD rates. Motion by Bill, second by Carol, to instruct Caroline to invest approximately \$20,000 for a nine to 12 month term at the best available rate, all ayes, motion carried.

IRR Grant Writing grant – Whitney replied that if no grants are to be applied for by November the grant writing grant could be canceled or perhaps repurposed for research. This will be revisited in the fall.

Contractor Mandie Aalto reported that the grant narrative was about 25% complete. She indicated that John Connolly does contract grant writing for Itasca County and may be available as a grant writer for the Friends. Mandie felt that she would not have the available time that a large grant would call for. Carol has given Facebook page access to Mandie as a backup. Mandie hopes to complete the narrative in the next couple weeks.

Carol noted that Michelle Pierson, ARDC works half time at the ARDC and half time as Gitchi-Gami Trail Association Executive Director.

Brochure update- Bill worked with Jodi at the Timberjay and provided a revised version. The Timberjay has quoted 280.49 plus shipping for 1,000 copies with the UV coating. Motion by Carol, second by Caroline to purchase up to 1,000 copies at up to \$300.00, all ayes, motion carried.

Carol contacted Sarah Ciochetto at the Mesabi Trail and they did not get out in the field this spring before leaf out either. They will be working out the alignment of the last section this fall.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9 at 3 pm via Zoom.

Motion by Carol, second by Caroline, to adjourn at 3:39.

Steven Lotz, secretary