

Price-Taylor Rail Trail Corridor Commission
Westboro VFW Hall
October 15, 2013

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting of the Price-Taylor Rail Trail Commission was called to order by President Marvin Kuenne on October 15, 2013, at 7:00 PM at the Westboro VFW Hall.

Commission Members present: Bruce Meyer, Bob Meyer, Marvin Kuenne, David Lemke, Mike Roiger, Troy Larson, Ron Heikkinen. Ex-Officio Member: Russ Aszmann. Others present: Ron Shiffle, Buzz Meyer, Ed Schlusser, Doug Thums, Tony Martyka, and Corey Verdegan.

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting were read. Clarification was added to minutes regarding Doug Thums' deed. "On Rail Trail property" was added to make it read "It was confirmed that per deed restriction he cannot put up a gas station on Rail Trail property." Motion by Mike Roiger and second by Bruce Meyer to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda

Motion by David Lemke and second by Mike Roiger to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given by Bob Meyer with a beginning balance of \$1,975.67 and an ending balance of \$2,825.67. Income of \$800.00 from the Town of Westboro and \$50.00 from the Antique Tractor Association was reported. Motion by Ron Heikkinen and second by Bruce Meyer to approve treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Brush Cutting Along Trail

Mike Roiger stated that the Rail Trail needs to be brushed badly. Russ Aszmann noted that JJ Brushing was contracted to brush the Taylor County portion last year and did a very nice job. Troy Larson led discussion about mowing operations on the trail. Mentioned that Luke Bacholl used a disc bine to brush the Price County portion last year for \$800. Also noted that Hermie Wiitala recently purchased a boom mower and charges \$60/hour. It was concluded that a boom mower would be preferred because of the job requirements of multiple passes and presence of larger brush. Russ Aszmann will solicit price quotes for brushing the Taylor County portion of the Rail Trail. Motion by Mike Roiger and second by Bruce Meyer to brush the Taylor County portion with a boom mower. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Noted that Don Albers wishes to no longer be the Secretary but may remain part of the Commission. After some discussion, Russ Aszmann volunteered to be secretary for one year. Marvin Kuenne was nominated to remain as President, Butch Wiles was nominated to remain as Vice President and Bob Meyer was nominated to remain as Treasurer. Motion by Mike Roiger and second by Ron Heikkinen to re-elect Marvin Kuenne as President, Butch Wiles as Vice President, Bob Meyer as Treasurer and elect Russ Aszmann as Secretary for a one year term. Motion carried.

Commission Membership

Troy Larson was introduced as the newest member of the Commission. Troy was appointed by the Price County Board as a representative on the Rail Trail Commission.

Maintenance - potholes

David Lemke stated that a new person is needed to do maintenance checks of the Trail. Spud used to do it weekly but is unable to continue. Doug Thums said that a couple

bicyclists have mentioned to him that maintenance has been lacking and trail is in rough shape, especially on the portion by Chelsea that has mud holes. Discussion about possible re-surfacing ensued. Doug Thums noted that "flat rock" out of the Athens pit may be an option. Marvin Kuenne stated that lack of funding is the main reason for lack of maintenance. Corey Verdegan noted that the Price County Forestry Department repaired a large sinkhole caused by a failing culvert on the Price County portion.

Update on Permanent Limited Easement

Russ Aszmann gave a brief summary of the project. An appraisal was paid for by the Town of Westboro and it was determined that the Permanent Limited Easement area is worth \$800. The Town of Westboro covered all fees associated with the project. Discussion ensued by the members about why and if there should have been a charge for the Permanent Limited Easement. Motion by Mike Roiger and second by Bruce Meyer to return the \$800 payment to the Town of Westboro because there should have been no cost for the Permanent Limited Easement. Motion carried.

Update on Doug Thums Parking Lot Proposal

Doug Thums noted that no action has taken place on this issue since the last meeting. Russ Aszmann handed out a packet of information containing aerial photos and correspondence that pertained to this issue. It was noted that per the aerial photo, some of Doug Thums' buildings/structures are on Rail Trail property. Russ Aszmann stated that if there was a user agreement between Doug Thums and the Commission that adverse possession would not be applicable. Doug Thums stated that he would be willing to cover necessary insurance, surfacing costs, etc. associated with the parking lot. Motion by Mike Roiger and second by David Lemke to have Taylor County Corporation Counsel draft a user agreement between Doug Thums and the Rail Trail Commission for land adjacent to his restaurant. Motion carried.

Member Items

Marvin Kuenne led discussion regarding securing funds from the Taylor County Transmission Line fund. Russ Aszmann noted these funds are supposed to be spent on outdoor recreation. Members noted that maintenance money should not be spent on resurfacing the Rail Trail until the failing culverts are fixed. Russ Aszmann and David Lemke will research more about culvert replacement costs and possible funding from the Taylor County Transmission Line fund.

Bruce Meyer updated the Commission on the war memorial in Ogema. There will be a cannon mounted on a concrete pad on Rail Trail property with the understanding that it will be removed if rail returns to the line. Motion by Bruce Meyer and second by Mike Roiger to allow cannon placement on a concrete pad on Rail Trail property. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Buzz Meyer noted erosion problems by Almond Street to the north. Additional surface material as well as a culvert is needed to redirect drainage. Members noted to contact the City of Medford to try and resolve this issue. David Lemke and Buzz Meyer will contact the City regarding this issue.

Tony Martyka raised a question regarding necessary setbacks on lots adjacent to Commission Property that led to discussion among members.

Next meeting was set for April 15, 2014, at 7 PM at the Westboro VFW Hall. Motion by Mike Roiger and second by Bruce Meyer to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Corey Verdegan, Price County Forestry Assistant Administrator

**PRICE-TAYLOR RAIL TRAIL CORRIDOR COMMISSION
WESTBORO VFW HALL
Apr 23, 2013**

Meeting of the Price Taylor Rail Trail Commission was called to order by Chairman Marvin Kuenne on Apr 23, 2013 at 7 PM at Westboro VFW.

Present: Marvin Kuenne, Don Albers, DuWayne Wiles, Buzz Meyer, Mike Roiger, Ron Heikkinen, Bob Meyer, David Lemke, Ex-Officio Members–Brad Ruesch, Eric Holm, Donna Albers, Michelle Grimm, Scott Stalheim were visitors..

The minutes of the Oct 9, 2012 meeting were read and approved as read with motion by Bob Meyer and a second by Dave Lemke. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was given by Bob Meyer with a balance of \$1975.67, this being the same as the Oct. 9, 2012 treasurer's report. The motion was made by Mike Roiger with a second by DuWayne Wiles to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Per Brad Ruesch he stated that an excellent job was done in constructing the Kiosk. Buzz Meyer said that Mike Baker will do a mapping on one side of it. He will also see what other signs would be useful on the railroad right of way. Eric stated that he put a sign on the north end of the trail and that he found no issue with the culvert. More discussion held on where problem could be.

Discussion was held on Bobby Thompson land being used for parking. It was there for use, even though it wasn't highly used this year. Gene Knoll did the plowing when necessary. Said lot will be brought up in the fall.

Doug Thums was in attendance and brought up several issues. He purchased the Chuck Little Bar and after re-reading his deed he was satisfied with the land description. He would like to clean up the area and put up a sign. It was confirmed that per deed restriction he cannot put up a gas service. As to parking in back of 'Other Corner' restaurant he would like to surface it for parking. It is all on County property. He also mentioned a possible basketball court. Liability issues entered into here. Question was asked Doug if he would be responsible for bonding or the liability insurance and he would be. He then stated that on the Little Bar he would like to take the hill out and make it into an open basement. He is to make up a plan and give it to Brad and Brad will then check into legal issues. No motions made.

Brad Ruesch informed Commission that the 1928 Bridge will be replaced in 2014, that Ayres and Associates will be contractor, and that a part of the right way on south side will be needed to be used. A construction or temporary easement will be okay with Ayres. In July or August they will probably start getting easements in order. Nothing further at this time.

May 17th of this year will be Brad Ruesch's retirement date. He suggested that Price County will assume his duties at least temporary.

Member Items:

Grants will be done by Eric Holm and whomever takes over for Brad.

Brush cutting for Taylor County is coordinated through Brad Ruesch, but Mike Roiger knows all about it.

Mike Granberg Issue: A motion was made by Mike Roiger and seconded by Dave Lemke for Eric Holm to prepare a letter for the Price County Board for a New Member to replace Mike Granberg. This motion carried.

Scott Stalheim received a signed permit pertaining to use of Trail for Pine Line Marathon. Marvin Kuenne then brought up along these lines, that what would happen if more than one party made plans to use Trail without a permit when another party also made plans for another type of activity.

Next meeting to be October 15th, 2013 at the Westboro VFW Hall with the election of officers to be held at that time.

Motion by Mike Roiger and a second by Buzz Meyer to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Don Albers, Secretary