Rock County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance
Minutes of March 22, 2016 Meeting
Rock County Jobs Center, Janesville

Dennis James, Chapter Coordinator
Ed Madere, Secretary
Beth Austin, Treasurer
Rita Fox, Trail Maintenance Coordinator
Dean Paynter, Director
Jayne Paynter, Director

Chapter Coordinator Dennis James called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Dean Paynter, Jayne Paynter, Rita Fox, Russ Marr, Clara Marr, Ken Manthei, Beth Austin, Ginny Henkel, Lee Henkel, Jay Gasser, Jason Sergeant, and Ed Madere. Guest: Ken Zabel.

Budget – Beth reported a current balance of $2,189.

Eagle Scout Projects – Dennis reported that there were several potential Eagle Scout projects:

- Brushing back the trail on the Milton/Janesville Segment,
- Invasive removal at Jeffris Park,
- Kiosk construction on Bowers Lake Road, and
- Precutting lumber and pre-assembly of boardwalk components and participating in the Rock County MSC project boardwalk construction.

Hornaday Projects/Awards – Ken Zabel, a local Boy Scout leader, reviewed the categories of environmental projects scouts might get involved with, to include:

- Invasive species removal,
- Soil and water conservation,
- Forestry and range management,
- Fish and wildlife management
- Air and water pollution control,
- Energy conservation,
- Hazardous material disposal and control, and
- Resource recovery (recycling)

Trail Maintenance Report – Rita gave a brief review and noted that a work day was held on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The group met at the County E parking lot, and worked in both directions from that point on the trail. Work included cutting brush, cleaning steps, collecting trash, and installing a new sign. Further work will be done on the Devil's Staircase after the park opens for the season.

Saturday Mammoth Hunt – Dennis reported this activity was held at the Milton City Library on February 27, 2016, and attended by thirty two kids. He noted that the Chapter should consider other opportunities for children to participate such as hikes for kids. It was suggested that the Summer Saunters handbook would be useful in developing programs. Consideration should also be given for designating and developing parts of the trail for families with young children.

Zenda Farm Technology Days (July 19, 20, 21) – Dennis reminded everyone that the IATA will be providing volunteers for this event. In return the IATA will receive funds for its participation. Contact IATA HQ if you would like to help.

Rock County Portfolio – Dennis discussed a new effort to collect local history and artifacts associated with the trail and the Chapter.

Awards – Dennis indicated that the following awards will be given to Chapter members at the Annual IATA Conference in April:

- Rita Fox – 10 years service
- Tim Rutter – 10 years service
- Beth Austin – In the Mud
- Ed Madere – In the Mud
- Lee Henkel – National Park Service – 100 hours
- Dennis James – National Park Service – 500 hours

Field Editing of Guidebook and maps – IATA is revising its guidebook and maps and is seeking assistance. It was noted that segments of the trail in Rock County have been assigned to individual members, and that each of them review his or her portion of the trail for the guidebook and map update. The packet pickup will be at the Annual Conference. The following assignments were made:

- Dean and Jayne Paynter - Clover Valley and County Line Road – Walworth/Rock County Line to Bowers Lake Road Parking Lot – Connecting Route
- Need someone for the Milton and Storrs Lake Segments
- Jim Neal – Milton to Janesville Segment – Vincent Road/Manogue Road to EMH Townline Road parking lot/EMH Road parking lot to Kennedy Road parking lot.
- Need someone for segment from Kennedy Road parking lot to Ruger Avenue.
- Ed and Sue Madere – Ruger Avenue to Jackson Street Bridge
- Ginny and Lee Henkel – Jackson Street Bridge to Riverside Park
- Dennis James – Riverside Park to Devils Staircase/ Devils Staircase to Arboretum/County A
- Taylor Kokinos/Dennis James – Arboretum to Green County/Rock County line

Efforts should be made to tie the revisions with possible “Hikes for Tykes”, as well as provide a sign inventory with GPS coordinates. The goal is to complete the guidebook project by August 2016.

Geocache Tours – Dennis indicated that Sandy Kailas has offered to set up geocache sites in Rock County. This could be used to promote tourism in the County.

Ice Age Trail Community – Dennis noted that the City of Janesville in preparing an application to submit to IATA HQ to become an Ice Age Trail Community.

2016 Goals – Dennis distributed a list of Projects/Goals for 2016. These will be on the Chapter’s website.

Candle making – Dennis reminded everyone that candle making for night hikes will be on March 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Traxler Park warming house.

Other business –

- Jay said he would have six kids to participate at the Storrs Lake work day.
- Jay also said that he would be donating safety glasses to the Chapter
- Historic signage also the trail was discussed with suggestions that the Rock County Historic Society and Den and Judy Adler be contacted.
- There was discussion on the IATA increasing the annual fee from $25 to $50.
- Dennis is preparing posters for the 2016 Walk across Rock County.
- The Chicago Hike is schedule for June 11. Sign up as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Ed Madere
Secretary