

# **MEETING MINUTES OF PRAIRIE TRAILS CLUB INC.**

**BLPOA Community Center  
6996 South SR 10  
Bass Lake (Knox), Indiana**

**February 19, 2025**

## **MEMBERS**

**Diane Blais  
Russ Blais  
Paul Byer  
Paul Cicci  
Joan Hardesty  
Charlotte Liss  
Kathleen Lucas  
Steve Lucas  
Anita McMillin  
Brian McMillin  
Rhonda Milner  
Kirt Verhagen  
Rich Vallicelli  
Larry Wickert**

## **GUESTS**

**Bob Albert, Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum  
Amie Flora, Starke County Park Superintendent**

## **Call to Order by President**

**On February 19, 2025, Rhonda Milner, President, called to order a membership meeting of the Prairie Trails Club Inc. ("PTC") at the BLPOA Community Center, Bass Lake at 5:35 pm, CDT (6:35 pm, EDT).**

**Rhonda welcomed our newest member, Paul Cicci, to the group. Introductions were made around the table.**

## **Review and Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2024**

**Diane Blais moved for approval of the minutes of December 4, 2024 as circulated by the Secretary to the membership in a February 13, 2025 email. Joan Hardesty seconded the motion, and the motion carried.**

## **Report of Gate Theft at Starke County Road 600 East**

Paul Byer reported upon the theft of a portion of the yellow gate at the trail crossing of Starke County Road 600 East. He advised the Starke County Sheriff's office of the theft, and Russ Blais followed up with a Deputy Sheriff. The understanding is that the Sheriff's office will mail in February a report to the PTC at its PO Box 72, North Judson, address.

Kathy Lucas spoke on February 19 with our consultant for the project when the gate was placed, Jonathon Geels, who is now the President of the Troyer Group. They discussed possible strategies for replacement of the stolen part.

This subject will be revisited at the March 19 meeting.

## **Election of Officers**

Rhonda called for action the annual election of officers for 2025. For 2024 she served as President, Russ as Vice President, Steve as Secretary, Kathy as Treasurer, and Linda as Liaison to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. All five officers expressing willingness to serve again but also indicated they would step down if someone else wished to serve. Rhonda said she had not received requests by others to serve and asked if anyone present at the meeting wished to become an officer. No one responded.

Char Liss moved to approve as officers in 2025 the same persons who served last year and in the same positions. Anita McMillin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## **Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds**

Kathy distributed written copies of the Treasurer's Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds as shown below:



**Treasurer's Report  
February 19, 2025**

### **FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST (FFBT)**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b><u>Balance on October 23, 2024 (prior meeting)</u></b> | <b>\$109,976.49</b> |
|---|---------------------|

**INCOME**

|          |  |              |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 12/18/24 | Proceeds from Chesapeake Bazaar (Peg & Team)                 | 589.00       |
| 12/19/24 | Donation from Tabitha Lucas Balzer (through Pay Pal)         | 96.02        |
| 02/04/25 | Donation from Di and Russ Blais                              | 100.00       |
| 02/04/25 | Starke Co. CVC Grant for 5K/3K & Erie-Panhandle Connectivity | 2,000.00     |
| 02/18/25 | Donation from Tabitha Lucas Balzer (through Pay Pal)         | <u>96.02</u> |

**TOTAL INCOME                      \$2,881.04**

**EXPENSES**

|          |  |              |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 12/12/24 | Check #1183 to OTES<br>9 revised "Rules of the Trail" signs                                  | 455.00       |
| 01/27/25 | Check #1184 to Precept Partners<br>2025 Website Hosting: 24/7 monitoring/security/assistance | 312.00       |
| 02/13/25 | Check #1185 to K. Lucas<br>Reimbursement for Secretary of State NFP filing                   | <u>22.00</u> |

**TOTAL EXPENSES                      789.00**

**ENDING FFBT BALANCE AS OF 02/19/25                      \$112,068.53**

*(Kathleen Lucas, Treasurer)*

**RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 12/4/24****TOTAL AMOUNTS  
PER CATEGORY****BENCHES**

|               |                                      |               |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Blais-Vlaming | Awaiting placement @ Bass Lake Beach | 350.00        |
| McMillin      | Awaiting placement                   | <u>350.00</u> |
|               |                                      | 700.00        |

**SIGNAGE/WEB**

|                 |                                 |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Luminous Fund   | Signs Bass Lake (incl. UR Here) | 960.64                                 |
| Hardesty Mem.   | Wayfinding or historic signs    | 2,423.32 (Reduced by 455 – OTES signs) |
| Lucas lakehouse | Future Vision/Website           | <u>662.50</u>                          |
|                 |                                 | 4,046.46                               |

**NW EXTENSION**

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| PTC Local Match | Trail Extension | 10,000.00       |
| NICF Grant      | Trail Extension | 25,600.00       |
| Rails to Trails | Trail Extension | <u>4,470.40</u> |

40,070.40

**DNR REIMBURSEMENT for ITP 23-06 Northwest Extension**

|         |                  |                 |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|
| 5/15/24 | Reimbursement #1 | 17,589.06       |
| 7/19/24 | Reimbursement #2 | 6,077.48.       |
| 11/4/24 | Reimbursement #3 | <u>4,813.85</u> |
|         |                  | 28,480.39       |

**MAINTENANCE**

|                     |                                 |                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mower fund          | Verhagen mowing donation (NICF) | 200.00          |
| Hardesty Mem.       | Trail Maintenance               | 594.00          |
| HVRM (Buckeye)      | Trail Maintenance               | 1,788.61        |
| Rich Stalbrink Mem. | Maintenance or most needed      | 2,699.11        |
| Doral Solar         | Bridge/clearing                 | <u>7,269.48</u> |
|                     |                                 | 12,551.20       |

**CVC Grant for 2025**

|                |                                |          |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Grant from CVC | 5K/3K & Panhandle connectivity | 2,000.00 |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------|

**TOTAL RESTRICTED 87,848.45**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>FFBT Balance</b>       | <b>112,068.53</b>       |
| <b>Restricted Funds</b>   | <b><u>87,848.45</u></b> |
| <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>24,220.08</b>        |

Kathy expressed great appreciation to Peg, Diane, Anita, Joan and team for extraordinary efforts and success at this winter's bazaars. She said they produced a significant source of unrestricted funding. Just as importantly they are ambassadors of good will and quiet public educators of the PTC's missions.

Kathy thanked Tabitha for her two donations. Kathy said the second was motivated by Tabitha's empathy for the PTC's need to stretch its limited financial resources to address the recent theft.

Kathy thanked Russ and Diane for their \$100 donation. She reflected they have been invaluable supporters of the PTC both in terms of volunteer services and funding.

Char moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report and Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. Joan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report of Filing: IRS 990-N (e-Postcard); Semi-Annual Indiana Secretary of State Business Entity Report; Indiana Department of Revenue NP-1; and Indiana State Board of Accounts Entity Annual Report (E-1)**

Kathy reported briefly upon filing the three referenced financial reports. She added that an NP-20R must be filed with the Indiana Department of Revenue every five years and will next be due on May 15, 2029. She was not required to file the NP-20R this year.

Steve said Kathy would never complain to the membership about how challenging are the filings of the fiscal reports. But he said she spent three consecutive half days on these reports. In particular the Entity Annual Report is user unfriendly. Even so Kathy persevered.

### **Bass Lake Beach and Campground Revitalization Report**

Starke County Park Superintendent Amie Flora provided a summary of the revitalization now underway at the Bass Lake Beach and Campground. The project is being managed by the Troyer Group. Her summary follows:

- On January 21, all kitchen equipment was moved out of the beach house and to the county warehouse to be sold in the county auction this spring.
- On January 23, the Brown and Brown construction crew began renovation. They have been working on the demolition part of the project and began to move on to the actual construction in the third week of February.
- The renovation project consists of an updated beach house with new restrooms and a concession stand; new playground equipment on the beach side; parking spaces near the beach house that are ADA compliant; a renovated campground bathhouse; and both guardhouses will have a make over, including new electric.

In response to a question, Amie said a new fence was not included in the grant but is an element of subsequent planning. She said she was pleased with the work ethic of the crew, and that despite an unusually demanding winter, "everything is on track."

Amie expects to provide an update on the project in March.

### **Consideration of Sign Proposal at SR 10 and Starke County Road 600 East**

Russ designed options for a new sign to be manufactured by OTES and placed across Starke County Road 600 East from Scoops and Smiles directing bicyclists to the Erie Trail. These options were presented by email to the BIC Committee for review, and after several adjustments, a final design was approved on January 24. The design has a QR code so a bicyclist can obtain more information. A paper draft of the sign distributed at the PTC meeting is shown on the following page:



The sign would be placed on private land. The landowner has expressed his approval verbally, but Russ will follow up to confirm.

OTES informed Russ the cost of the sign will be \$275. Russ estimated the cost of posts to erect the sign at \$150. Larry Wickert moved to authorize Russ to spend up to \$500 for manufacture and erection of the sign. Rich Vallicelli seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Paul noted that good timber remains from the Fell Ditch bridge project, and this timber might be used for the sign posts. If so the price of the project would be reduced,

Russ reflected the concept for the trail connection sign was originally Kathy Carrier's. He plans to contact her regarding the recent progress and to seek her perspectives.

### **Report of February 3 Great American Rail-Trail Stakeholders Webinar**

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy annually hosts video conferences, on the State level, to review progress on development of the Great American Rail-Trail. Highlights of this year's Indiana review included a scheduled 1.4 mile gap closure near Taylor University; expected openings on the Nickel Plate between McGrawsville and Bunker Hill and a short extension into Rochester; the PTC's effort at North Judson; a proposed 3-mile extension southeast from La Crosse; and efforts to determine the feasibility of using INDOT's right-of-way between Hebron and La Crosse for trail development.

Nationwide the RTC reported the Great American is 2068 miles long and 55% completed with 173 miles "in the development pipeline". In Indiana the trail is 122 miles long and is 56% completed.

## **Update on Saris/Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Work Station**

Members were informed during our December 4 meeting that Rick Vlaming had recently reviewed online Saris plans and designs for its work stand and pump. He volunteered to pursue parts assembly indoors this winter. Members welcomed Rick's offer. Members also discussed whether the work station should be placed at US 35 or on our planned trail extension through North Judson.

Russ said he and Rick took apart the three boxes containing the work station. Contents of the boxes are heavy, but assembly does not appear complex. Steve had informed Russ that members who have commented favor a US 35 location over a North Judson location.

Members discussed the relative merits of placing the work stand on the west side versus the east side of US 35. Char reflected the Starke County property she and husband Corey own is adjacent to the trail on the east side of US 35. The work stand could be placed on their property and include a security light. Rich noted there was more traffic on the west side of US 35 so it would be more convenient for users to place it on the west side. Joan said a sign adjacent to the counter on the east side states it does not provide the PTC with anyone's identity, and she did not wish to take action contrary to this statement. Steve said he liked the idea of the Lisses helping protect the work station.

There are multiple easements and underground facilities on both sides of US 35. Locating the work stand so it does not damage one of these facilities will require compliance with Indiana 811 notification provisions. He said he thought the work station could be located so it would not conflict with the counter's sign regarding personal identity. The final decision regarding the location of sign placement at US 35 was left to Rick and persons working with him.

## **Attendance at April 25 Indiana Greenways Foundation Trails Celebration**

This year Tabitha Balzer and her law firm Lewis & Kappes are sponsoring a table at the Greenways Foundation Trails Celebration. The event is scheduled from 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon, CDT on April 25 in the Heirloom at the N. K. Hurst, 230 West McCarty Street, Indianapolis. As part of the sponsorship, Tabitha offered three free tickets to PTC members. Steve and Kathy are buying tickets and also plan to attend. [Editors note. Subsequent to the meeting, Russ, Diane and Joan expressed interest and were provided the three tickets.]

## **Preliminary Planning for April 26 Celebrate Trails Day in Starke County**

Hosted since 2013 by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy on the fourth Saturday in April, Celebrate Trails Day is an annual spring celebration of America's trails. In 2023 the RTC

sponsored an event centered at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum which featured free train rides and included an unwelcome blizzard. Jasper County Trails Club, Friends of the Panhandle Pathway, and other trails clubs provided great support.

Last year the PTC held a modest event with a prelude by Paul who caused placement of the gravel parking lot east of Starke County Road 700 East. Members engaged in trail cleanup near that location and later enjoyed a picnic. The event was organized only shortly beforehand. There was not sufficient time to request promotional materials from the RTC. With the Greenways Foundation Trails Celebration and the Celebrate Trails Day being 100 miles apart, and less than a day apart, this year's event must again be modest.

But this year members have done advanced planning. Kathy announced participation in Celebrate Trails Day on Facebook. Opportunities were referenced for wildlife and nature enjoyment, a walk or bike ride, trail maintenance, and advancing placement of the Saris bike work station. The activities were communicated to the RTC, together with a request for materials such as temporary signage and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be a planning followup during the March meeting.

### **Update on May 24 5K Run/3K Walk and Bike on the Great American Rail-Trail (Erie Trail)**

Brian and Anita have caused this event to be posted on RunSignup. Posting repeated Rich as the contact person for questions concerning participation. Brian identified 29 T-shirts and 29 medals remaining from last year's event. T-shirts may be augmented to as many as 70 total, and for categories in which medals were awarded last year, they would be replaced. If sales of T-shirts significantly exceed expectations the PTC may consider additional purchases. Brian said he would again seek the support of Starke County Highway Superintendent Rachel Oesterreich.

During the December meeting, Diane expressed the need to communicate promptly with T&H Timing to secure its services. Steve contacted Todd at T&H, and he sent a written form contract which Steve filled out, signed and returned. Todd acknowledged contract receipt and confirmed that the PTC is on the T&H calendar for the May 24 event.

Peg reported she has only three of the Luminous Fund coloring books remaining. She also has a few of the cotton and of the gold-on-black T-shirts.

One promise to the CVC grant was cue sheets for better connectivity between the Erie Trail and the Panhandle Pathway. A cue sheet provides directions for distances and turns along a route. John Bawcum, President of Friends of the Panhandle Pathway, and Steve have worked on a south and southeast bound cue sheet. Paper copies of the cue sheet's third draft were circulated during the meeting. Joan identified an error which has been corrected, and the corrected version follows in [cobalt blue](#). PTC Members and Friends are invited to review the text, as well as ground-truth the route, and share any comments with Steve by March 3. After that date he will resume collaboration with John Bawcum on signage and cell phone development.

### **Erie-Panhandle Connector Route going [South and East](#)**

[Welcome to the Erie-Panhandle Pathway over-the-road Connector route. These directions identify an over-the-road bicycle link between the Erie Trail \(host to the Great American Rail-Trail, American Discovery Trail, and US](#)



**Bike Route 35) and the Panhandle Pathway. This over-the-road route is shared with motorized vehicles. Please follow all rules of the road and proceed with caution.**

1. At the intersection of the Erie Trail and Starke County Road 700 East, proceed with caution south on Starke County Rd 700 East for approximately 9 miles.
2. Note: Starke County Rd 900 South is the Starke-Pulaski County Line and the time change from Central to Eastern. Crossing into Pulaski County, Starke County Road 700 East changes to Pulaski County Rd 200 East. Continue south on County Rd 200 E.\*
3. A quarter mile past Pulaski County Rd 300 North, County Rd 200 East curves sharply to the west and changes names to County Rd 250 North. The Tippecanoe River will be on the right for approximately 1/4 mile. Continue West for 1/4 mile. Just before reaching the Tippecanoe River bridge, turn left (south) onto Pulaski County Rd 200 East.
4. Follow County Rd 200 East for 2.5 miles to the STOP sign at Indiana State Rd 14.
5. Using caution and cross Indiana State Rd 14 (NOTE: High speed traffic on Indiana State Rd 14) and then continue south 1/2 mile to County Rd 50 South.
6. Turn right onto County Rd 50 South and proceed west to the “T” and STOP sign at Old Indiana State Rd 14.
7. Turn left on Old Indiana State Rd 14 and proceed southwest into the town of Winamac.
8. Continue west across the Tippecanoe River Bridge, through the four-way STOP at Riverside Drive, and through the traffic light at US Highway 35 (Monticello Street).
9. Continue west an additional 2 blocks to the Panhandle Pathway, also known as the Winamac Parkway Recreation Trail.
10. Turn left onto the Panhandle and continue south 22 miles to Kenneth, near France Park and Logansport. OR turn right to downtown Winamac.

\*Note for long-distance travelers on the Great American Rail-Trail, American Discovery Trail and US Bike Route 35, just after crossing the Tippecanoe River turn left (east) on Pulaski County Rd 700 North toward the town of Monterey.

**A reverse cue sheet would be needed for north and west bound travelers.**

**Cost of an erected sign has been estimated at \$600. Our webmaster Steve Antisdell would provide a QR code for signs at both ends of the route directing travelers to a new online page. Our webmaster estimated a cost of \$120 dependent upon “the amount of content on the new page, including the QR code for the entry point signs.” For the sign to be placed at the parking lot east of Starke County Road 700 East, Steve Lucas would include a second QR code with a brief description that identifies the Erie Trail going northwest. The second QR code already exists and appears on the PTC’s “Rules of the Trail” and and “Your-Are-Here” signs.**

**The event is the current banner on the PTC’s Homepage. During the meeting, Char asked Kathy to send her a few images from last year’s event for use on our Facebook page. Kathy responded that she would.**

**As noted previously, Kathy has received and deposited the CVC’s \$2,000 support grant. She and Steve will refresh the painted starting line and turn-around lines for the 5K Run and for the 3K Walk when weather permits.**

PTC member Kevin Kennedy has offered to assist as a flagger.

### **Warrior Expeditions Great American Rail-Trail Trek Update**

Char reminded members the PTC will again this year host veterans who are crossing the United States on the Great American Rail-Trail. The Warrior Bike Program traverses the 3,800 mile Great American Trail, crossing twelve states from D.C. to Washington, and takes place during the months of May until August. Seven men will this year kick-off from Washington, DC on May 6. PTC members have supported the effort every year of its existence.

Char said the roughly 50-mile distance between PTC members in southern Starke County and her home in Lake County is about the distance these trekkers like to travel in a day. So it's a good fit for our club and for the veterans.

Char said having expressions of support locally are a wonderful positive. Members in Starke County have accompanied veterans to service memorials and to the Knox VFW. Annette and Jim Skibbe have without failure placed and removed posters prepared by her students at St. Peters Lutheran School, North Judson. Below are 2022 warriors David Davila and Carlos Monterroza standing next to one of those posters on their way west through the rest park.



### **Mint Festival Participation on Fathers Day Weekend Update**

Steve said Deb Mix wrote that she has two bikes reserved for making smoothies at a PTC booth. The only caveat to the bikes is that she will have them picked up—most likely from Winamac. If her husband Ray is available, he can pick them up. She wrote that he has a large trailer and can strap them down. If he isn't back by the afternoon on Friday, then the PTC would have to wait until Saturday to have them. Deb added that Rich had said he was going to look into getting the ingredients. The bikes “are such fun and truly attract peoples’ attention.”

## **Northwest Trail Extension Report for ITP-23-06**

On January 6, Kathy provided Indiana DNR a timely Fourth Quarter Report for the months of October, November and December, 2024. This report referenced an informal review on December 12 of design plans with the Town of North Judson. It referenced publication in the Leader newspaper of a Notice of Construction and submission to IDEM of a notice of intent to comply with a Construction Stormwater General Permit governing construction discharge stormwater. The Report also referenced payment to Territorial Engineering of Invoice #4 in the amount of \$1,504.32.

On January 8, DNR Grants Coordinator Erica Gummere wrote that she had “forwarded the reimbursement request up to DNR Purchasing for further review and approval. With the 4<sup>th</sup> billing, the total amount reimbursed” would be “\$29,623.68 with a grant balance of \$270,376.32.” Erica wrote the PTC should let her know if the fourth reimbursement is not received by February 20.

Yesterday our consulting Engineer, Bob Aloï, gave an update reflecting the PTC has now entered the bidding stage and will hopefully be entering the contract stage after a bid opening set for tomorrow night in the North Judson Town Hall.

Bob added “We will open bids, read the contractor’s names and bid amounts and then take them under advisement until I have had a chance to review them, produce a bid summary and then make a recommendation to the [PTC] Board on how to proceed.”

Kirt Verhagen outlined a “back pocket” concept for addressing plant restorations along the rear of houses that border Franklin Street. He said the trail would be parallel there to the active rail lines. Kirt graciously offered to bankroll a project to provide arborvitae or another native species in order to form a visual barrier between the trail and the houses. Placement of the barrier could be limited to landowners who sought one. He said the Town of North Judson has indicated it would be willing to water the trees in the first year after planting.

Members noted that plans call for site restoration including reseeding and tree plantings. The final plan is expected to replace Rose of Sharon bushes that are present adjacent to one property. The members thanked Kirt for his offer and agreed to wait until the project develops to take any action.

## **Update on RULES OF THE TRAIL Signs**

Steve said the new “Rules of the Trail” signs have been obtained from OTES. He brought one example to the meeting. When the weather improves, removal of the old signs and placement of the new signs will begin.

## **OSSIS Project Archway of the Sun Installation announced by NICF**

On December 16, 2024, the Northern Indiana Community Foundation (NICF) announced that the Archway of The Sun (El Sol) was installed. The Archway is the northwestern starting point on the Erie Trail for Our Solar System in Scale (OSSIS). The Archway was

installed by Steindler Signs & Graphix as the lynchpin for a project funded through a Lilly Endowment GIFT VII Placemaking Grant. The NICF is the centerpiece for a three county organization consisting of Starke, Fulton, and Miami County Community Foundations

Bob Albert, Liaison from the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum, reflected at the meeting the Archway of the Sun “sets things off really nicely”. It is an essential element of the OSSIS project. The HVRM and PTC were among those entities NICF acknowledged as supporters in its announcement. The OSSIS project is a featured item on the PTC’s Homepage.



The Sun (El Sol) OSSIS project facing east on February 22, 2025

Image by K. Lucas

## **Consideration of Jim Chessor Mowing Proposal at Rest Park and West**

Following up on the rest park mowing arrangement for 2024, Jim Chessor proposed a 2025 mowing arrangement for the entire distance from the rest park to the trailhead at North Judson. Approximately ten mowings at \$200 each are anticipated, but this number is likely to be somewhat different depending upon weather.

There was a full discussion of needs and costs. Several members expressed support for agreeing to the arrangement, and there was no opposition. Joan moved to approve the arrangement for 2025. Paul seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## **Trail Counters Update**

Joan said the new counter southeast of the rest park is in place and operational. She collected data just before the February deep freeze and shared a printout of the results during the meeting. Joan said two counters are now functional—one near the rest park and one east of US 35. Three other counters are available for placement.

Joan was asked whether the counters identify exclusively bicyclists on the east side of US 35. She responded the PTC should have a ground-truthing day to clarify functionality of the counters in their current configurations. She was also asked whether the counters would include horseback riders, and Joan responded that she believed they would.

Members thanked Joan for her diligence with managing and replacing the counters. They also expressed appreciation to her for extraction of data even mid-winter and for sharing the data on a regular basis.

### **Review of Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum Activities**

Bob Albert, Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum Liaison to the PTC, provided an update on recent activities. He said there's "not much going on yet." HVRM members are "working on equipment" and getting ready for the 2025 season.

Tickets for the upcoming Easter Trains in April are now on sale. Bob said there "will be another coach hopefully for the Eastern Trains." He added "hopefully by next meeting we'll have a more complete schedule."

### **Report of First La Porte County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Meeting**

The first public meeting to update La Porte County's Bike Master Plan was held at Red Mill County Park north of Westville on December 17. Peg participated as a workgroup member, and Kathy and Steve accompanied her.

An outgrowth was identifying, as a strength in La Porte County, the ability to connect to transcontinental trails the Great American Rail-Trail, US Bike Route 35, and the American Discovery Trail. An opportunity was recognized as the potential to connect with Starke County from LaCrosse through English Lake and on to North Judson.

### **Next Membership Meeting**

The next membership meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., CDT (6:30 p.m., EDT) in the Bass Lake Property Owners Association Community Center, 6996 South US 35, Knox (Bass Lake), Indiana.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m., CST (8:46 p.m..EST).



**TRAIL FOOTPRINTS AT STARKE COUNTY ROAD 700 EAST  
ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

**Kathy Lucas**