On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 6:00 PM, the Council for the Village of Monroeville attended a Firelands Rails to Trails (FRTTI) meeting, held at the Donald E. Morrow Depot & Park, 66 S Ridge Street, Monroeville.

Present: and: Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip

Chris Raftery Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer

Craig Franklin Tom Gray, Village Administrator

Joe Galea Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Sue Rogers

Bob Whitacre

Also attending: Huron County Commissioner Terry Boose, FRTTI President Josh Wyrick, FRTTI Vice President Joe Mantey, FRTTI Trustees, Lance Franke, and Robb Smithson, and the Ridgefield Township Trustees.

Firelands Rails to Trails members gave a presentation titled, “North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) Workshop for the Village of Monroeville.” FRTTI is an all-volunteer, 501c3, non-profit organization that owns and manages 20 miles of North Coast Inland Trail in Huron County. They are dedicated to the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the NCIT in Huron County. All maintenance costs are paid for by donors using volunteer labor. FRTTI is in no way connected to the National Rails to Trails.

Welcome, and introductions were provided by Josh, with an overview of FRTTI, NCIT, and US Bike Route 30. The Donald E. Morrow Depot & Park was built in 1863. The building has been restored to look like it did in 1914. Lance gave a detailed look at the NCIT. Upkeep on the trail occurs between March and October every year. The trail is unique, as it is a 3-in-1 trail that includes the NCIT, part of the Buckeye Trail, and US Bike Route 30. The rail line was built in 1851 but abandoned in 1973 for close to twenty years. A grant acquirement in the 1990s paved the way for the trail to be created.

After a very short intermission, Joe Mantey spoke regarding the bicycle tourism industry, in-town signage with examples, Clark Park connector, marketing, and trail towns. The goal of this meeting was to see what can be done to make the Village of Monroeville a “trail town”. Trail safety is a top priority. The trail is patrolled by local law enforcement within their jurisdictions, and by the volunteer trail patrol. FRTTI would like to see a camping area added to Monroeville for people who are using the trail. They would also like to see signage added to show where food, drink, restrooms, and rest areas can be found. Tom Gray advised that Bonnie Beck has been in contact with the Village of Wakeman, to obtain similar signage to what Wakeman is currently installing. Joe talked about how bicycle tourism could be huge for the Village of Monroeville, as it has been for other places in and outside of Ohio. Folders with handouts were provided to those in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

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