



December 10, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of the Trail,

As 2016 comes to a close, we continue to see trail progress, although, sometimes, not as quickly as we would like.

Concerning the delay of the Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant implementation for the Washington, C.H. area, the delay was caused because of the EPA's reclassification of wetlands, through which the trail was to go, after the grant was awarded. The city, our group, and the West Central Port Authority have been working a four pronged attack to get the problem worked out. Clean Ohio did not want any work done until all problems had been resolved. Plans are to reroute the trail out of the wetlands between Eyman Park and the YMCA, which will be both easier and cheaper.

Good, no fabulous news! A park district has been approved for Fayette County and the three park commissioners are soon to be appointed. This will be such a good thing for the county and our trail. Most counties in Ohio already have park districts. Ross County has had one for many years and has benefited greatly. Currently, the Clinton County park district is holding land in Fayette County because there was no park district available to accept the land.

The Friendship Trail, between Washington C.H. and Wilmington has been progressing slowly this year. They have 2.2 miles paved with the remaining 5.8 miles in crushed limestone. They are planning for an Earth Day 2017 dedication.

Cookie Ride 2016 was a success. We had 126 riders and cleared over 53,000. Good job! One longtime rider said it was our best year yet.

Two new benches were donated by the Ross County Park District this summer. Volunteers installed them at mile 22, west of Austin Road, and at mile 23.5, west of old route 35.

For those seeking some holiday gifts that are trail related, in Chillicothe, framed limited edition prints of the old Chillicothe railroad depot are available at Julie's Shop on Paint (62 N. Paint Street) and TTT t-shirts are available at River's Bend Bike Shop (94 Water Street). Both are excellent shops - shop local.

As far as 2017 trail related events that most people want to know dates for:

- New Year's Daze Ride, a community ride, is held at 1:00 P. M. Frankfort - show up and ride as much or as little as you would like
- TTT Half-Marathon/5k run/walk -2 TTT fundraiser – Saturday, Apr 15, 2017 Brad Lightle Park, Frankfort
- TTT Cookie Ride - another TTT fundraiser - Sunday, August 20 at Brad Lightle Park, Frankfort
- Nite Pie Ride, another community ride - Thursday, October 5, starting from the National Park Parking Lot at Sulphur Lick & Maple Grove Roads at 6:30 pm – yeah! It's going to be a full moon

Enjoy your holidays with family and friends. Be safe.

Jacquelyn Doles

V.P. & Corresponding Secretary