

Minutes of the Friends of Coddington Valley Rail Trail (FCVRT) Meeting, March 7, 2026

Attendance: 10 members of the public in person
Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline Supervisor
Recording Secretary: Katherine Forrest

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Lewis Freedman
Minutes from 2/7/26 approved.

UPDATES:

1) Progress at Ridgeway: bridge materials removed, water up at least 6-7 inches in last week
23 foot span of water currently impassable

-Much of the area that was cleared in February will be under water for a good part of the year
-Perennial beaver activity will be an issue
-Problem solve around this during discussion section of meeting

2) Middaugh Section: towns are committed to trail proceeding on the railway bed, working on resident relations

3) ithacatrails.org —> will be listed on the website, maps of trails that are open when ready, not yet there; however, we can have a presence with photos and information - Nick Helmholt

4) Cayuga Trails Hike will be using the FCVT at an upcoming event

5) Website - maps, donate button, trail group activities; goal for a discussion forum
-Discussion regarding goals of communication forum and access.
-Google group vs. other options
-Consensus around Google Group/listserv versus website
-Who could moderate? Katie Nicholson & Dave Makar. THANK YOU
-Illustration of trail map? Hand drawing? Put out a call for illustrators on listserv
-Email list currently 109

7) Finances: \$1,100 raised so far

DISCUSSION:

1) Tool purchase, small tools grants; possible options for grants with organizations
Zach to send tool list to Lewis, look for grants
Call for tools! Donate button?
Discuss Town Hall tool shed option

2) Burns Road Wet Spot - Lewis spoke to Town of Ithaca, they are aware. It is a big project. Part of the larger planning project. Plan for Summer 2027. Friends group can put planking in, other temporary measures in the summer. Continue to monitor.

3) Ridgeway area: long term, big project, boardwalk, etc.
Discussion regarding DEC permitting, applying for a Point Specific Project; options for bringing to Town Task Force as an agenda item vs. other approaches

4) Upcoming meetings and work events:

3/21 Work Party 10-12; Beaver Creek, heading towards Middaugh
4/7 (Tuesday) zoom 7:30-9 to focus on 4/25 planning
4/25 Groundbreaking Celebration & Work Party

May 9 meeting, currently scheduled in person 10-12
May 16 work party TBD
June 6 work party TBD (National Trails Day)

————Meeting Adjourned————

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Forrest