

**Minutes of
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE
December 2, 2013**

A meeting of the Burt Lake Trail Committee was called to order by Steve Vorenkamp on December 2, 2013, at 7 p.m. at the Burt Township Hall, 7029 Birchwood Road, Cheboygan, Michigan. Steve Vorenkamp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Members Present: Steve Vorenkamp, (Chair), Ann Baughman, Virginia Chenevere, Bert Ebbers, Kim Kihnke, Art Pillen, Mac Richardson, Gary Street, Mary Street and Connie Vorenkamp.

Committee Members Absent: Jay Jontz, Kelley Jontz, Frank Kestler and John Roberts.

Also Attending: Leo Chenevere, Harold Koviak, Jim Larson and Joyce Hutto-Nolan (Recording Secretary).

Minutes of July 22, 2013

Moved by Connie Vorenkamp and seconded by Virginia Chenevere to approve the minutes of July 22, 2013, as written.

Motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of August 26, 2013

Moved by Gary Street and seconded by Art Pillen to approve the minutes of August 26, 2013, as written.

Motion unanimously approved.

2013 Burt Lake Trail Summary

Steve Vorenkamp reviewed the Burt Lake Trail timeline for 2013. In January the easement acquisitions and trail design changes were finalized. MDOT approved the design and M&M was awarded the construction contract. The ribbon cutting ceremony and picnic was held on August 10. Little Traverse Conservancy hosted a trail ride from Maple Bay Road to Hogsback Road in September. Trail modifications and repairs caused by excessive rain have been necessary. A grant application was submitted to MDOT TAP Fund for paved shoulders on East Brutus Road from Maple Bay Road to Highway US 31 North. A grant application was submitted to the DNR Recreational Passport Fund for improving the parking lot at the Little Traverse Conservancy Chaboigaining Preserve. The plan is to expand the parking lot area, erect a trailhead sign and place benches in the area.

The estimated cost of construction is \$710,000. Wet soil excavation expense of \$70,000 plus was spent on the south end of the University of Michigan property. Wet soil was removed and sand was brought in to fill this area. Other improvements for trail signage and pavement markings were made. In addition to the \$710,000, other expenses included: \$169,000 for C2AE engineering, \$3,120 for grant writing, \$30,000 plus for easement acquisitions and Northwest Design, \$1,530 for the DNR project for correcting draining issues, and \$6,437 for the state required archaeological study.

The income totaled \$473,325 from MDOT TE, \$398,500 from MNRTF, and \$160,000 from local donations.

A meeting was held in December with NEMCOG to discuss NEMCOG taking over the leadership of the completion of the trail.

Financial Report

Connie Vorenkamp explained the payments from MDOT. MDOT pays the bills when they are invoiced. A match is made from MNRTF following review of the invoice, a copy of the check, and a copy of the cancelled check. All documents have been reviewed by Harold Koviak to make sure they are correct. When the documents have been reviewed by MNRTF reimbursements are made. To date, \$302,265.68 has been submitted for reimbursement with complete documentation.

Gary Street reported that contributions totaled \$169,276.65 as of October 31, 2013. The fund balance at TOMTC is \$30,961.58. Pledges which are unpaid total \$16,040. A reminder letter will be sent.

Gary spoke with C2AE about the erosion on the trail on the Street and Jontz property. M&M and Cheboygan County Road Commission have repaired other washouts on the trail. Options are being explored to correct these problems.

New Business

Committee Structure in 2014.

Connie and Steve Vorenkamp met with NEMCOG on December 2, 2013, and discussed a regional approach to complete the trail. They would like to meet in January with all the stakeholders for all of the townships involved to establish a time schedule to complete the trail connections.

Mary Street said because Steve Vorenkamp is resigning as chair, a new chair needs to be appointed. Leadership is needed from the east side of Burt Lake. Many of the committee members are resigning, but are willing to be available to work in the areas they feel they are qualified.

Motion

Moved by Gary Street and seconded by Ann Baughman to consider the leadership and guidance of NEMCOG to continue the trail from Topinabee to US Highway 31 North and to look for a chair and vice chair for 2014.

Motion unanimously approved.

Decisions will be made after the January 2014 meeting concerning how any committee will continue to work.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Ann Baughman thanked Steve and Connie Vorenkamp for all of the work they have done on the trail.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Ann Baughman and seconded by Gary Street to adjourn.

Motion unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Joyce Hutto-Nolan, Recording Secretary

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