

**BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2016**

The Burt Lake Trail Committee was called to order by Co-Chairs Art Pillen and Gene Hodulik on May 23, 2016, at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall, Cheboygan County, Michigan.

ATTENDING: Gene Hodulik, Art Pillen, Virginia Chenevere, Steve Vorenkapm, Mac Richardson, Kim Kihnke, Jim Valrance

ABSENT – None

ALSO ATTENDING: Jim Larson, David Boyle and Lucas Porath of Northwest Design Group, Gordy Aittama, Tom Stephanic, Marti Barrow, Ken Barrow, Sherry Stefanec, Harold Koviak, Dave Hutto, Jill Patterson, Dave Patterson, Leo Chenevere, Bert Ebbers, Jon Jontz, Dennis Dombroski, Donna McDougall, Recording Secretary

Co-Chair Hodulik led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: February 22, 2016 and March 28, 2016

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Chenevere to approve the minutes of February 22, 2016 as published.

MOTION APPROVED

As Gene Hodulik was the only member present at the meeting, the minutes of March 28, 2016 will be placed on file.

MNRTF Status: Dave Boyle and Lucas Porath, NDG

The MNRTF grant request was submitted, and passed the first time through. A letter of understanding from U of M is needed by October 1st. Dave said this is a good indication the grant will be approved.

Before the meeting this evening, NDG and trail committee chair Hodulik walked the proposed trail with U of M and the Road Commission and came to the decision that the best option was the first one.

The MDOT grant will be submitted before October 1st and the trail committee will know by then if the MNRTF grant has been approved for the fund match with MDOT. A resolution will be needed from the Road Commission for the application. The only easement needed will be from U of M.

Letters of support have been received from Sen. Wayne Schmidt who wrote to Alex Nikoloff and Mary Carlock at the Trust Fund. The only letter needed now is an updated letter of support from Sheriff Clarmont. The applicant for the MDOT grant will be the Road Commission.

Dave Patterson asked when approval for the easement will be received from U of M. Boyle said they have already given verbal approval and will be giving written approval soon.

Boyle said won't have final easements until the trail is designed and goes to construction.

During the walk-through today, Bob Vandekopple volunteered to work with whomever lays it out where it is not already cleared.

Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative Mini-Grant – Connie Vorenkamp

Connie Vorenkamp and Ann Baughman have been working on a Discovering Michigan grant application which would provide up to \$10,000 for marketing purposes. It will cover the cost of updating trail brochures needed for fundraising, signs at the corner of US 31 and Riggsville Rd. required by the MNRTF grant, and a sign at the kiosk at Chaboinganing. A \$2500 match is required for the grant.

Jill Patterson asked if the match needs to be new money. Connie said it may be existing funds. Mac Richardson asked what criteria they are looking at:

Connie Said the goals are:

- 1) To ensure recreation users can find the Burt Lake Trail with directional signage from major roads
- 2) To connect the Burt Lake Trail to the Up North Trails by utilizing kiosks and trail guide signs
- 3) To promote the Burt Lake Trail through update and distribution of promotional materials an digital application technology that promote trails

Dave Patterson asked if the signs are required. Connie said yes – The signs cost \$200 each at the corner of US 31 and Riggsville Rd. The other signs are not required.

Lucas Porath, NDG, said that if this grant is approved it may be used as a match for other grants.

MOTION: Moved by Hodulik, supported by Richardson to approve submission of the Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative Mini-Grant application.

Discussion – none

MOTION APPROVED

2016 Kayak Biathalon- Hodulik

Hodulik said the sponsor of this this event which is part of the Indian River Festival donates between \$1100 and \$1500 from proceeds to the trail.

Trail Maintenance – Hodulik

Hodulik said the Township has had a Master Plan for over 15 years which requires a Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan stressed having a park and trail. The township residents did not want a park afterall so the only other recreation is the trail and two road ends maintained for launching small watercraft and ice fishing.

Each year the township has budgeted \$25,000 for Parks & Recreation. In 2015, \$25,800 was spent from the Parks & Recreation line item for trail for maintenance, and in 2016, \$8,200 has been spent on the trail for maintenance. The grants from MNRTF and MDOT totaling \$750,000 for construction of the trail require that the trails be maintained. A crew of volunteers has been keeping up the trail but due to washouts from the terrain, blacktop was needed on some hills to preserve the trail. Hodulik said the trail in Emmet County is being maintained by their Road Commission and Burt Township is fortunate to have volunteers to do the work.

Hodulik suggested that perhaps a special trail fund for maintenance be set up through the general fund budget for trail maintenance in addition to the Parks & Recreation line item but this is a matter for the board to discuss.

Jill Patterson asked what will happen with trail maintenance when the trail reaches Mullett Township. Dennis Dombroski said Mullett Township plans to cooperate with Burt to maintain the trail.

Koviak said we will need agreement with Munro Township for the trail as it goes through their township and may include maintenance.

Steve Vorenkamp said that as this is the only way to connect the trail and to get to the gorge area, it makes sense to ask the biological station to help with trail maintenance in that area.

Dave Patterson asked how wide the shoulders will be. Lucas Porath said they will be 5' which will help with prolonging the life of the shoulders.

Patterson asked who will pay for redoing the shoulders when they deteriorate. Porath said grants would be available for large scale jobs.

Patterson said the township would be responsible for the maintenance and that the township could not afford a park.

Patterson asked if Phase II will have the same engineering company as the last one. The last one had problems and the committee should learn from the past.

Lucas Porath said that is why they recommend asphalt on this phase.

Steve Vorenkamp noted that leftover In MNRTF money was used for fixing the trail problems on Phase I.

Patterson said the trail should be amortized over the life of the trail.

Lucas said other small governments perform routine maintenance on their trails, but there isn't an expectation by major funders for putting aside large amounts for major projects as grant funding will be available. The MNRTF understands that years from now major work will need to be done, and it is not standard practice to replace the trails from township funds.

Lucas said he will check further with granting agencies on this.

Pillen said this will be a discussion for the board.

Tom Stephanic noted that since the Road Commission repaved Riggsville Road, it is a very nice, wide road.

Dennis Dombroski said Mullett Township has a millage for fire. They have two dedicated funds, one for trucks and one for SCVA to replace bottles in stages. He suggested Burt Township may want to go that route for trail maintenance.

Dave Hutto asked if the new bridge on Brutus Road will accommodate a trail. Steve Vorenkamp said it will have 4' paved shoulders.

Mac Richardson said there are several candidates for the August 2nd and asked Jim Larson what is his position on the trail. Koviak said that this cannot be discussed in this forum.

Next meeting: June 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Hodulik to adjourn.

MOTION APPROVED

Adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McDougall, Clerk/Recording Secretary