

**BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 27, 2016**

The Burt Lake Trail Committee was called to order by Co-Chairs Art Pillen and Gene Hodulik on June 27, 2016, at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall, Cheboygan County, Michigan.

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

ABSENT – None

ALSO ATTENDING: Larry Fox (C2AE), Connie Vorenkamp, Katie Parker, Bert Ebbers, Mary Street, Gary Street, Leo Chenevere, Dave Hutto, John Roberts, Jim MacMillan, Tom Stephani, Gordon Aittama, Hank Jallo, Anne Becker, Ann Swayze, Linda Ginop, Charlie Antkoviak, Jim Larson, David Boyle (NDG), Donna McDougall, Recording Secretary/Clerk

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

Gene Hodulik introduced the members of the Burt Lake Trail Committee.

MINUTES: May 23, 2016

MOTION: Moved by Pillen, supported by Chenevere to approve the minutes of May 23, 2016 as published.

MOTION APPROVED

Public Comment:

Jim Larson said he and Steve Vorenkamp have been back and forth regarding maintenance on the trail and that Vorenkamp should do his due diligence. He said he has road commission comments on maintenance on the trail. Also, that the township is on the hook for maintenance in perpetuity.

Larson said he was told the reason for the trail is public safety but that Koviak came back from an ORV meeting in 2009 and said that public safety is not the responsibility of a township.

Virginia Chenevere said that the speed limit was reduced to 45 mph about that time.

Mac Richardson asked Larson if he is against public safety.

John Roberts said there is a difference in being responsible for safety and promoting safety.

Old Business

Focus of Trail Committee – Hodulik

Hodulik said he became involved with the trail at the end of 2013 after the trail was completed on the west side and NEMCOG was going to take over with the north end and east side of the trail. However, after discussions and trial meetings the first half of 2014 it was decided NEMCOG was not the appropriate entity to take the lead so a new committee was formed to focus on Phase II in September 2014. The West Side volunteer maintenance committee was also formed to be responsible to take care of the existing trail. The new committee is now working with Northwest Design Group to get grants from MNRTF and MDOT for Phase II.

Issues were brought up about trail maintenance and Hodulik said the data from other organizations and the Emmet county DNR trails department, actual maintenance for limestone trails is about \$765/mile per year, and \$713/mile per year for paved trail. The township has a Parks & Recreation budget of \$25,000 per year and the money rarely is spent, as the trail and the two road ends are the only entities.

Hodulik introduced Larry Fox from C2AE who came to speak on construction of Phase I of the trail. Mr. Fox said the trail was designed in accordance with MDOT and AASHTO. Both MNRTF grant and MDOT grant went through MDOT and the road commission was involved every step in its construction. He said the trail is consistent with other crush limestone trails in the state.

Hodulik asked about the standard used to build the trail. Mr. Fox said they took out the topsoil to get to the solid foundation. In some areas they had to dig out 4-5 ft to get to the base. Six inches of crush limestone was used. He said it was built to road design standards.

Dave Hutto asked if stone paths can be converted to asphalt. (Yes it can).

Ann Swayze said she realizes many people worked hard to get trail done but she has a hard time riding on it. Her opinion is that the trail is not useful and needs to be asphalt.

Leo Chenevere said the trail is soft in the spring but good otherwise.

Mary Street said asphalt would be easier but she rides it twice a week.

Anne Becker said she sees people walking or riding on the road instead of the trail every day.

She asked about water permits, especially near the beaver dam and where was the water diverted.

Connie Vorenkamp said she likes paved trails but the cost is more.

Larry Fox said either way the base would have been needed and shoulders would need to be added. He encouraged the trail committee to add paving using other grant funds sources.

Leo Chenevere said people are letting big trucks use the trail for parking instead of their driveways.

McMillan said he lives on the paved portion and wanted to know why the whole trail was not paved. Pillen said cost was the issue.

Steve Vorenkamp said no easements were given for a separated trail in that area so it had to be along the road.

Mary Street said the trail is located on the non-lake side due to so many driveways and safety was the issue.

Steve Vorenkamp said Merrie Carlot from MNR Trust Fund said grant applications are coming in from local governments for paving crush limestone trails.

Hodulik said the property owners on the east side, off lake, do not want a separated trail, requiring easements so it is planned to be paved shoulders. The right of way on East Burt Lake Road varies from 66 feet to 80 feet

Jim MacMillan said the trail should have been paved all along.

Larson said no one is talking about DNR and MDOT funds. Larry Fox said a MDOT grant allows for both separated and/or paved shoulders.

Regarding Anne Becker's questions on water diversion – Bert Ebbers said he does not know. Larry Fox said it was properly permitted by the DNR. Anne Becker asked if the base of the trail will be compromised due to the water. Vorenkamp said he hasn't noticed any problems.

Dave Hutto said that with the dissatisfaction of the current trail, shouldn't it be fixed with asphalt before going forward with Phase II.

Virginia Chenevere said the east siders have waited a long time for the trail on that side.

Larson said Ingham County has a paved trail shorter than the Burt Lake Trail and needs to pay \$800,000 to repair it now.

Phase II - Dave Boyle, NDG

The MNRTF grant is in and they had an on-site meeting with a representative from the DNRTF. She liked how Phase I was handled and how the trail looks. Time was spent with her touring/walking the proposed Phase II trail.

Mr. Boyle suggested putting no parking signs along the trail on existing posts. Also, he suggested entering into a cooperative, intergovernmental agreement between Burt and Munro townships for maintenance on Phase II. Mr. Boyle said he doesn't think it would be a good idea to put Phase II on hold to asphalt the existing trail.

When Mr. Boyle talked to Merrie Carlot (MNRTF), she told him they have a cooperative agreement document that could be used as an example. She also spoke about "life of project" and "in perpetuity", that the MNRTF considers "useful life" in the same context as "perpetuity" - about 20 years. The MNRTF is now getting as many grant applications for older trails, 20-25 year old trails, for upgrading as they are for new trail projects.

Steve Vorenkamp asked Larry Fox what may be expected to fail on the trail in next 10-20 years. Mr. Fox said that the crush limestone will need be kept up as it will diminish from dragging, contamination from the road and root intrusion but that will be all.

Steve asked about putting an asphalt surface on top. Mr. Fox said the life of the asphalt would be expected to be 15-20 years and then an overtop coat could be applied.

Steve asked Mr. Boyle if MDOT would think \$735,000 would be too much. Mr. Boyle said they will present this project as little bigger but that the next one would be a bit smaller.

Maintenance – Hodulik

Hodulik announced that the Township Board approved a new line item sub-account beginning with the 2016-2017 current budget, to set aside \$10,000 initially as a capital improvement fund for the trail. It will be a subaccount of the Parks & Recreation line item with a \$25,000 budget.

Any remaining funds in the Parks & Rec line item at the end of the fiscal year will be deposited into this capital improvement fund also. It will be used for large maintenance projects.

This year \$8,200 has been paid to pave the eroding shoulder near Indian Road. Over the past two years, \$32,000 was used to pave 3 eroding hills (\$25,800 in 2015, \$8200 in 2016), from the Parks & Rec.budget. True maintenance has been about \$1,000 per year in 2015 and 2016.

New Business

Hodulik said there is approximately \$55,835 in the trail account. \$75,000 is required as a match for Phase II. Mac Richardson asked when solicitation should start to raise the required match. Connie Vorenkamp said the DALMAC grant is due April 2017. BLPA should be approached before winter for a donation. Connie Vorenkamp said pledges can be solicited at any time.

John Roberts said if the “in perpetuity” issue has been nailed down, he would like it in writing. Steve Vorenkamp said he is in agreement with the trust fund; i.e.,life of trail. Merrie Carlock from the DNRTF is out of town, but Steve said he will get it in writing from her when she returns.

John Roberts also asked about maintaining the trail in Munro Township and if that portion be paid by the grant also. Hodulik said no grant money can be used for the trail maintenance, and maintenance has not yet been discussed in detail with Munro Township.

Dave Hutto suggested pursuing grants to pave the trail on the west side.

MOTION: Moved by Steve Vorenkamp, supported by Hodulik to pursue grants to pave the trail on the west side.

MOTION APPROVED

Brochures – Connie Vorenkamp

Connie Vorenkamp reported that the Burt Lake Trail did not receive a Discovering Michigan grant to pay for signs and brochures, however, they were encouraged to reapply next year.

Public Comment

Larson said he wants financials for the trail.

Leo Chenevere said the DNR said the North Central trail has low maintenance and what’s changed. Hodulik said nothing has changed.

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

MOTION APPROVED

Adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McDougall, Clerk/Recording Secretary

