

BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE

November 29, 2010

Committee members present: Steve Vorenkamp (chair), Gary Street, Ann Baughman, Bert Ebbers, Art Pillen, Mac Richardson, Connie Vorenkamp, Virginia Chenevere, Kim Kihnke.

Also attending: Jim Larson, Shirley Reimann, Doug Parson, Dennis Budzinski, Susan Budzinski, Billie Wickey, Joan Robinson, Joyce Hutto, Recording Secretary.

Minutes

Moved by Gary Street and seconded by Ann Baughman to accept the minutes of September 15, 2010.

Motion unanimously carried

Public Comment

Steve Vorenkamp introduced himself as the new chair of the Burt Lake Trail. Steve thanked the committee for the work they have done. Steve summarized an article from a magazine telling of a woman who organized a bike and walking trail in Indiana.

Mac Richardson told of an article he read of the importance of trails and safety issues. The article stressed the three e's: Education, enforcement and engineering, and to make the public aware of these issues. Jim Larson said enforcement was important but there is no one to enforce the safety of the trail. Mac Richardson said the Burt Lake Trail Committee should promote guidelines of safety on the trail.

Trail Update

Complete Streets.

Steve Vorenkamp summarized a meeting he attended of the Cheboygan County Planning Commission. Emily Myerson led the meeting to tell of the educational aspects of motorized and non-motorized transportation.

Steve also attended a meeting led by Steve Schnell telling of the impact of tourism and resources in the area. This would be an asset to local business.

The DNRE trust application has been returned with several questions to be answered about the trail. Committee members worked on the answers. The decision of approval of the application will be made on December 1, 2010. This application is for the 1st part of the trail on the west side of Burt Lake from Maple Bay to the north part of Raver Road on West Burt Lake Road. If accepted, easements will need to be approved by the land owners.

MDOT TE grant application turned down the original proposal, and the committee will reapply after the DNRE grant application is approved.

Proposed 2011 Events

Newsletter

Steve Vorenkamp commented that the Burt Township website is a good way of getting caught up with what is going on with the trail. He suggested a newsletter with updates go out twice a year to people to keep them informed about the trail. John Roberts and Ann Swayze have volunteered to work on the newsletter.

Trail Ride event

Steve Vorenkamp suggested a trail event in the summer of 2011 with TOMTC or LTC to talk to township residents to update them on what is going on and to educate them on trail safety and the rules of using the trail. Kim Kihnke has agreed to help organize a trail ride event.

Region wide Trail Conference

Organizational meetings are needed with area townships. Steve Schnell, Cheboygan County Development Director leads this type of meeting.

Trail Promotion/Fundraising ideas

Neighborhood forums could be held to inform people what the committee is doing and why. Ann Baughman suggested events at designated areas to teach safety and how to enforce the rules of the trail. Virginia Chenevere suggested combining the Indian River Summer Festival with an event for safety.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2011 at 7 p.m.
Steve Vorenkamp asked for agenda items. Steve's email is stevevorenkamp@racc2000.com.

Public Comment

Jim Larson asked if the road is widened, how will they saw cut the road, and is the County responsible. Who would pay for the increased shoulder of the road and what would it cost? It was answered it is Cheboygan County's responsibility.

Susan Budzinski asked where the trail would be located. Ann Baughman presented the map of the proposed Burt Lake Trail and explained the route. The map is also on the Burt Township website.

Joan Robinson asked how the public is being informed of the trail. It was included in the taxpayer's statement of winter, 2009. Meetings have been held, newspapers articles have been published, 2000 brochures have been distributed at the township transfer stations, Hoppies and the Brutus Deli. The committee meeting dates and time have been posted in the Straitsland Resorter and have been posted at the Burt Township Hall.

Billy Wickey asked about maintenance costs of the trail. Gary Street said the cost is estimated at \$500 a mile per year. This amount is in the C2AE engineering plan. The funds would come from the Burt Township Recreation Budget.

Jim Larson asked about the longevity of the limestone trail and is concerned about the herbicide application for weeds.

Motion

Moved by Gary Street and seconded by Connie Vorenkamp to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 8:50.
Joyce Hutto, Recording Secretary