

Minutes of
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE
February 28, 2011

A meeting of the Burt Lake Trail Committee was held at the Burt Township Hall, 7029 Birchwood Rd. Cheboygan Michigan on February 28, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Committee present: Steve Vorenkamp (Chair), Gary Street, Bert Ebbers, Art Pillen, Connie Vorenkamp, Virginia Chenevere, Kim Kihnke, Jay Jontz.
Also attending: Leo Chenevere, Dennis Dombroski, Jayme Ohlhaver, Barbara Nelson-Jameson, Steve Schnell, Joyce Hutto-Nolan (Recording Secretary).

Minutes

Moved by Connie Vorenkamp and seconded by Gary Street to accept the minutes of November 29, 2010 with the following correction: add Leo Chenevere to those also attending.
Motion unanimously carried.

Trail Update- Connie Vorenkamp

Connie Vorenkamp reported a grant was awarded to Burt Township from DNRE for **\$398,500**. That money, with the \$140,000 from pledges, will be used to construct the first phase of the trail. This part of the trail is planned to be a separated, crushed limestone surface. It will begin at the Maple Bay Campground and will continue to the north part of Raver Road.

Connie attended a meeting in Lansing with MNRTF for the final grant recommendation. Their board showed interest and enthusiasm in the Burt Lake Trail project.

The Burt Lake Trail is designated high priority for development in NEMCOG's non motorized transportation plan approved by MDOT.

The Burt Lake Trail Committee has been working on obtaining support from the villages and townships along the route. We have Burt Lake Trail support from Monroe and McKinley Townships and the Villages of Pellston, Topinabee and Mackinaw City.

Connie attended a meeting of the Michigan Recreational Park and Trail Association. Among the topics were trail maintenance and information on Complete Streets.

Guest Speaker- Steve Schnell, Cheboygan Community Development Director, Cheboygan County.

Steve Schnell gave a power point presentation on an update of trails and economic development. This presentation highlighted the economic benefits of trails. He said the development of trails will connect people in a positive way. The benefits of a trail are better health, better **quality** of life, income and employment.

Cheboygan County is a supporter of trails because it brings economic development. The Cheboygan County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is an entity to raise money and buy property. They will assist a local community with a recreational trail to enhance the services they provide and create a "sense of place". This "sense of place" gives a sense of where you are and can be based on the history of the area.

Recreational Asset Collaborative (RAC) markets trails by promoting the trail with websites, maps and building a database.

It is important to educate people what is “off the trail” and what there is to do near the area of the trail. Maps will provide this information.

Steve discussed *Trail Town Manual*, a book on tourism along the North Central State Trail. This manual can be seen on the Cheboygan County Website.

Connie Vorenkamp asked how to get the word out to other communities that the Burt Lake Trail will be an asset to these communities. Steve said EDC can help. Also, to educate others about the history of the area and include this in the plan of the trail.

Burt Lake Trail Update

MDOT TE Application

Emily Myseron is working with the next phase of the trail for the MDOT TE application. It is hoped to use the grant from the DNRE for the first three miles as a match for the next seven miles for a separated crushed limestone along the residential area on West Burt Lake Road and paved shoulders the rest of the way to Hoppies. This would connect the trail from Maple Bay boat launch to Hoppies boat launch area. This application for the grant is due the end of April.

Proposed meeting schedule and events.

See schedule at end of minutes.

The schedule will be put on the Burt Township website and in the BLPA newsletter.

Events

Bike Ride

Kim Kihnke is working with Tom Bailey and Jeff Winegard to have a trail ride the end of July from the Chaboingaug Nature Preserve to Bear Saw Creek Preserve. The Little Traverse Conservancy will provide someone to help lead this ride. Kim will continue to work on the details of this project. Tentative date is July 30, 2011.

Neighborhood Gatherings.

Neighborhood informational gatherings will be planned in the future to promote the trail.

Newsletter and Website update

John Roberts is working on the newsletter to update pledge donors. Other groups to consider sending the newsletter to property owners and neighboring trail communities.

Basic information about the trail will be the Burt Township website.

Legislators need to be contacted to give them information and give them updates about the trail and to receive their support.

Next meeting

March 28, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Burt Township Hall.

Moved by Virginia Chenevere and seconded by Gary Street to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Joyce Hutto-Nolan, Recording Secretary

Burt Lake Trail
2011 Proposed Burt Lake Trail Committee Meetings & Events

- Monday, February 28 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Guest Speaker: Steve Schnell-Cheboygan County Trails & Economic Impact.
- Monday March 28 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Guest Speaker: Rick Deuell, NEMCOG—NE Michigan Non Motorized
Transportation Plan and the Burt Lake Trail
- Monday, May 23 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Guest Speaker: Emily Meyerson, MDNR Trails Coordinator for Northern Lower
Peninsula—Burt lake Trail Update
- Monday June 13 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Guest speaker (Bill Hofmann/Timothy MacArthur)—Trail Easements & the law
- Monday, July 25 7 pm Topinabee Trail Head
Hike with the O'Hares, property owners on North central State Trail answers to FAQ's:
What is crushed limestone surface? How does the trail effect property owners?
What is cost of maintaining the trail? What do trail volunteers do?
- Monday August 22 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Guest Speaker: Jeff Winegard, Top of Michigan Trails Council—"Burt Lake Trail"
- Monday September 26 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Guest Speaker: Barbara Nelson-Jameson, National Park Service: River, Trails and
Conservation--: State of Trails in Michigan"
- Monday November 28 7 pm Burt Twp Hall
Burt Lake Trail- Year End Update.