

Minutes of  
**BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE**  
March 28, 2011

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

Committee Members present: Steve Vorenkamp (Chair), Ann Baughman, Bert Ebbers, Art Pillen, Connie Vorenkamp, Kim Kihnke.

Also attending: Dennis Dombroski, Shirley Reimann, Donna McDougall, Rick Deuell, Joyce Hutto-Nolan (Recording Secretary).

**Minutes**

Moved by Bert Ebbers and seconded by Art Pillen to accept the minutes of February 28, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

**Guest Speaker, Rick Deuell, NEMCOG**

Steve Vorenkamp introduced Rick Deuell of Northeast Michigan Council of Government (NEMCOG). Rick Deuell explained NEMCOG was funded in 2007 by MDOT to develop regional non- motorized transportation plans. NEMCOG will guide a community in creating a plan for DNRE approval. DNRE reviews grants and establishes priority project funding. NEMCOG will guide a community in establishing community priorities and will assist in seeking grants. Deuell heard about the Burt Lake Trail from regional meetings he attended while gathering input from local communities. Goals were established as part of the plan and include: connectivity, safety, economic development, funding, community support and recreation. Deuell said the Burt Lake Trail plan fits these goals. In looking at a proposed trail project, a high priority is the connector to the North Central State Trail in Petoskey to the Mackinaw City Rail-Trail. This all fits into the prioritization criteria needed to seek a grant. The plan which is a guideline for MDOT highlights the Burt Lake Trail as a high priority. The background work has been done and community support has been shown.

**Legislator updates**

Kim Kihnke, Steve and Connie Vorenkamp met with Frank Foster, State Representative. Foster is trying to bring people to Northern Michigan and to promote tourism. Foster said he feels Governor Snyder is trying to keep our Parks and Recreation programs and trails going as they bring economic growth to Northern Michigan.

Connie Vorenkamp reported for Gary Street, who was unable to attend this meeting. Gary had met with Senator Howard Walker and Representative Greg MacMaster to inform them of the Burt Lake Trail and to ask for their support. Packets including Burt Lake Trail information have also been sent to all three legislators.

Gary attended a citizen advisory group meeting of the Cheboygan Trails and will continue to attend these meetings as a Burt Lake Trail representative.

**Newsletter and website**

Connie Vorenkamp reported Donna MacDougall has sent updates to be put on the Burt Lake Trail webpage of the Burt Township website.

A newsletter is being printed with updates and a thank you to trail donors. Gary Street has prepared a data base and labels for mailing the newsletters.

**Biking event**

Kim Kihnke reported the bike ride event will take place July 30. It is planned to make the ride a natural history event with speakers along the trail telling about the area. Kim will continue to work on this project.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2011 at 7 p.m at the Burt Township Hall. Emily Meyerson will be the guest speaker at this meeting.

**Public Comment**

Connie Vorenkamp asked if the \$400,000 grant money can be used for the separated trail where possible, and where needed, use some of that money for a widened shoulder trail. Steve Vorenkamp said Emily Meyerson will continue to study the trail and present recommendations.

Connie Vorenkamp reported Mary Street has started looking at Cheboygan County Right of Way questions and information. Mary has obtained the road deeds for West and East Burt Lake Road. She will continue to work on this project.

**Motion**

Moved by Connie Vorenkamp and seconded by Art Pillen to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Joyce Hutto-Nolan, Recording Secretary