

**BURT TOWNSHIP**  
**Ad Hoc Trails Committee**  
**April 17, 2009**

The Burt Township Trails Committee met at Boyne Highlands, April 17, 2009, with 19 people attending. Harold Koviak introduced Ann Chastain, meeting facilitator from MSU Extension. Gary Street gave an overview of the recreation plan put together in 2007. Part of the plan was to develop a trail because of safety issue for bikers, joggers, and walkers. The trail should not be just for Burt Township and should be a regional trail serving Topinabee, going across the North end of Burt Lake and over to Brutus. Ann Baughman told of the challenges to be faced and the goals to be made. Those here at the meeting today are here to help construct this trail and to help make this a connector trail.

Ann Chastain took over to lead the meeting to help with an understanding of a work plan and how to accomplish this.

Ann started with a diagram of a time line.

September 2007--Burt Township recreation plan

September 2008--Trail Feasibility started

April 2009--Comprehensive plan to develop the East to West Trail to make it a regional trail.

March 2010--Easement commitments

April 2010--DNR Trust fund Application due.

Overall goals

1. Have a fully developed work plan to construct the trail.
  - Determine short term tasks
  - Determine long term tasks
2. Match individual strengths with work plan.

What are the goals for the trail?

1. To provide a trail for the residents of Burt Township as well as nearby townships and communities to have a safe, non motorized trail for biking, walking jogging, etc.
2. Link trails together. Mackinaw to Gaylord Trail on the East side of the state, and Petoskey to the Mackinaw on the West side of state
3. Publicize to draw out of town riders and walkers.
4. Maintain as a non motorized trail. The intention is to be a non groomed trail, although, there may be some occasional snowmobile usage. Must be upfront with the public to make them aware this could happen.

What is important to work on?

1. Trail needs a name
2. A safe, non motorized route for residents.
3. Consider making the Biological Station a destination ???
4. Consider possible alternative connector routes.
5. Snowmobile access issues must have a firm position statement.
6. Will there be tax credits for adjacent property owners?

Major issues to be resolved

- 1 Trail route connector (How to cross I-75)
- 2 Easements agreements? Burt Township or other townships?
- 3 Funding. Who is the applicant?
- 4 Trail Use? Snowmobiles or non motorized? This issue needs to be addressed early in the project. Need to show that it will not be groomed, but snowmobiles, realistically, may use the trail. It is very important to be upfront that this could happen.
- 5 Public Education. Need publicity to let people know the purpose. Positive issues are safety, recreation, benefits to health, and benefits for the economy. Help the public overcome any fears of having a trail near their homes. Keep legislators informed.
- 6 Engineering issues (access issues, wetlands, etc.)

Ann Chastain said we need more people. The committee cannot do it alone. It is easier to get funding with more people involved. Involve as many need be.

## **INDIVIDUAL GROUP SESSION**

### **Publicity**

Ride, August 22, 2009.  
 BLPA: Annual meeting. Have a booth.  
 Logo, Trail name contest,  
 Website publicity  
 NEMCOG  
 Summer Festivals: Alanson Riverfest, Pellston, Indian River.  
 T-shirts, caps, cups.  
 Sponsorship from bike shops (gift certificates)  
 Chamber of Commerce websites  
 Press Releases  
 Dump Day Flyer  
 Promote health and economic benefits.

### **Funding**

Organize a fundraising committee  
 Grants. Create a case statement to be used to obtain grants.  
 Other sources for funds:  
     Foundations  
     Family Foundations  
     Individuals  
     BLPA  
     Corporate donors

Sell items related to the trail  
 Show recognition of donators. Maybe a wall showing names of donors located at the trail head.  
 Have a kick-off event.  
 Sell maps showing the route.

### **Route**

Need maps to show connectors of route.  
Study taking route on Douglas Lake Road  
Need to address: How many easements on route?  
On or off roads connectors?  
Get maps to show easements, wetlands

### **Easements**

Property owners liability. Needs to be in writing that owners are not liable.  
Engineering- Needed for easements.  
How many easements needed?  
Uniform agreement on  
    Perpetuity  
    Maintenance  
    Non motorized  
Where is the legal road center line?  
Identify property owner legal signers.  
Need early contact with Uof M on easements.  
Restrooms  
Power Line row

### **Wrap up**

Each committee needs to make a description of tasks to be accomplished.  
Make a list of overall needs.  
Who else needs to be contacted? McKinley Township, Munro Township, Village of Pellston  
Deadlines: Grant applications  
Need commitments from adjoining townships  
Need letter of support from all interested parties.  
Need specific plans to move ahead.  
Need engineering firm to specifically lay out route needs.  
Consider alternate routes for final trail route.  
Very important to finalize a preferred route of the trail so committees can move forward.

The Routing committee will meet May 8.

Committee members are Tammy Doernenburg, Jane McGinnis, John Eby, Harold Koviak,  
Nancy  
Salar, Mary Campbell, Steve Schnell, Dennis Dombroski. Others may be joining this  
meeting.

Next meeting is May 15, 2009 at 9 a.m. Place to be announced.