

# Minutes of **BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE** MAY 23, 2011

A meeting of the Burt Lake Trail Committee was held at the Burt Township Hall, 7029 Birchwood Rd. Cheboygan, Michigan on May 23, 2011 at 7 p.m.

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

Also attending: Mary Street, James Conboy, Leo Chenevere, Jim Larson, Dennis Dombroski, Joyce Hutto-Nolan (Recording Secretary).

## **Minutes**

Moved by Connie Vorenkamp and seconded by Gary Street to accept the minutes of March 28, 2011 as written.

Motion unanimously carried.

## **Natural History Bicycle Ride**

Kim Kihnke presented a poster of the natural History Bicycle Ride to take place July 30, 2011. Kim went over the details of the ride which will start at Colonial Point and end at Bear Saw Creek. Speakers from the Little Traverse Conservancy and the University of Michigan Biological Station will be at each stopover to highlight the natural history of the area. Hoppies is offering 10% off the menu for the participating bike riders. Volunteers are needed for the shuttle service. There is no charge for the ride or shuttle. Riders will be asked to consider a donation to support the trail.

The posters will be distributed around the area. Committee members are asked to make copies to distribute.

## **MNRTF Grant update**

Gary Street reviewed the requirements of the Trust Fund Project Agreement. The three main requirements are: (1) Resolution of acceptance by the Burt Township Board. (2) A legal description of the trail and (3) a boundary map of the trail.

The key steps to be taken are to designate a trail committee representative for contact with the DNR. Easements need to be obtained. The route needs to be finalized. Select the engineering firm to do the field work, surveying, drawings and what needs to be done for a contractor to build the trail. Pledges which were made will need to be collected. Local and State permits need to be obtained. Approval by the DNR. These requirements and the construction work for the grant must be completed by May 1, 2013.

## **Emily Meyerson, Planning Consultant and MDNR Trails Coordinator**

Emily Meyerson said she needed direction from the trail committee on what is wanted for the MDOT TE grant application. She spoke with the MNRTF and TE coordinators and was assured the MNRTF grant money can be used as a match for the MDOT TE grant. To achieve a 40% match Emily recommended the trail continue from the end point of the initial 3 mile segment (N.

Raver Road) to Hogsback Road. The trail on the West side of Burt Lake is proposed as a separated trail and can be justified to MDOT because of the residential area and safety reasons. Approximately \$580,000 will be requested for the MDOT TE grant. Burt Lake Trail members agreed with Emily's recommendation. She will begin writing the MDOT TE grant application and hopes it will be submitted in the next round of reviews.

### **Summer Neighborhood Parties**

Volunteers are needed to coordinate parties to update residents on the progress made on the Burt Lake Trail. Virginia Chenevere suggested a corn roast to be held at the Burt Township Hall in the fall and volunteered to plan this event. Steve Vorenkamp asked for contact names to be sent to him.

### **Next Meetings**

The next meeting will be June 13 at 7 p.m. at the Burt Township Hall with guest speakers Bill Hofmann and Timothy MacArthur speaking on trail easements and the law.

The July 25, 2010 meeting will be at the Topinabee rest area with the O'Hares, property owners on the North Central State Trail.

The proposed meeting schedule is attached.

### **Public Comment**

Steve Vorenkamp said he had received a letter from Robert Porter, a land owner on the proposed trail. Mr. Porter questioned why Hogbacks Road wasn't considered for trail use. Steve said it has been considered but the trust fund and MDOT felt it was unsatisfactory as an unapproved addition. It did not work for funding. Mr. Porter's second concern is the curve on West Burt Lake Road is dangerous. Porter feels that Mundt Road would be a better alternative for the trail route. Steve said the problem is that most people will continue to use the section of the road around the curve and it should be improved to make it as safe as possible. The engineers will look at both sides of the road at the curve and will make it as safe as possible.

Gary Street said another concern is, if Mundt Road is used as the trail route, that people who live on Elmhurst Road and in Burt Lake Springs would have to use a section of the road which is not a part of the trail to get to the trail. Street said the curve problem needs to be solved. Leaving a potentially dangerous situation unchanged is not a good solution. The curve needs to be made safer.

### **Motion**

Moved by Gary Street and seconded by Bert Ebbers to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hutto-Nolan, Recording Secretary