

**BURT TOWNSHIP  
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on February 28, 2022 at 7:07 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

**ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Mike Goerke, Brett Lindgren, David Jacalone, Margie Reh, and Paul Janness at the hall. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary. No one on the conference call.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Hodulik

**AGENDA:** No additions. Motion to accept agenda as written by Brett Lindgren, seconded by Paul Janness. Motion approved.

**MINUTES: January 24, 2022**

**MOTION:** Moved by Brett Lindgren to approve the January 24, 2022 minutes, seconded by Paul Janness. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE:** The Township Parks and Rec budget will increase to \$30,000 for 2022. The budget will be split into a Maintenance Section and an Improvement Section. Maintenance will include Spierling Construction sweeping the paved trail in the spring, Slowinski cutting the edge grass twice, volunteers installing some signs/posts, painting bike stencils, applying brine to the crushed limestone portion of the trail, and identifying any spots on the trail needing additional limestone gravel, and debris removed. The maintenance budget also includes any work to be done at the road ends, such as cleanup and trimming the weeds/grass. The defined Maintenance Section budgeted is approximately \$10,000.

The Improvement Section budget will be for paving trail sections as determined based on continuous yearly crushed limestone maintenance or erosion issues. The Improvement Section will be the remainder of the \$30,000 budget or approximately \$20,000 for 2022. If the improvements (paving) projects are more than the total budget, the remainder will be paid from the Township Trail Maintenance Fund. Approximately \$39,000 is budgeted for the Improvement Section for 2022, which means that approximately \$20,000 will be spent from the Trail Maintenance Fund this year. Three defined areas to pave are 700 feet going north of the trail head near Brutus, 350 feet south of the trail head, and 350 feet from Hardwood Road south to the Jontz Hill which is already paved.

Margie Reh asked if the paving will include going through the trail head. There was agreement that it should be paved through the parking lot.

**PHASE III.** We are waiting for MDOT's final approval of the finances to close out the project. A fourth voucher payment has been made by MDOT to J and N Construction for \$4,681.21, bringing the total paid to \$497,341.95. This may be the last payment, based on a recent conversation Gene Hodulik had with Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering. She stated that we should not be paying any money to close it out as it was below budget. However, there is a final invoice from Huron Engineering still pending.

**DEVELOP A PLAN AND PRIORITIZE NEXT PHASE OF THE TRAIL:** Hodulik and Koviak had a meeting today with the new Cheboygan County Road Commission Manager Matt Hall, and engineer Travis Horrocks. Topics included West Burt Lake Road reconstruction and the trail plan to have extended shoulders on Topinabee Mail Route when the road is reconstructed. The same goes for Brutus Road. Copies of the Trail Handbook (which were reviewed while there), were left with them emphasizing the trail connecting to the North Central State Trail (Topinabee), and Northwestern State Trail (Brutus), as the only east/west connector. Presently there is no plan to reconstruct either road, both of which are the county responsibility financially. It was stressed that reconstruction of Topinabee Mail Route is needed with at least five-foot shoulders and is wide enough now to do that. Part of West Burt Lake Road will be included in the next 4 year plan, assuming that the county-wide 1 mil for roads is renewed in August. When West Burt Lake Road is reconstructed, possible paving of the adjacent trail will be considered.

**TRAIL HEAD POSSIBILITY ON THE EAST SIDE:** There has been no progress between the Corner Store property owner and EGLE regarding financial compensation to have the property swap happen and a new home located on the swapped property. The Township Board is in favor to have the property swap happen.

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY:** Discussions led by Margie Reh, Mike Gorke, and David Jacalone regarding the best date led to selecting the date of Saturday, June 11, starting at 10am. The starting location has not been determined, but it was suggested to have the ribbon cutting at the Gorge. Paul Janness volunteered to talk to Bob Babcock regarding a possible BBQ (hamburgs/hot dogs) at Hoppies. Discussion also involved if this event would be for locals of the township or a larger audience. There are many weekend activities this time of year to compete with what we are planning to do. Still to be determined is a budget, invitees, activities (bike ride and/or run, T shirts for sale, a poker run), a possible speaker, and local media ( Resorter and Tribune reporters) coverage.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW REVENUE SOURCES:** This depends on where the focus for the trail continues. Discussions led by Margie Reh and Mike Goerke and Brett Lindgren led to working on what we can control which is to pave Phase I of the trail. This would involve communicating with west side folks regarding their opinions. This might involve a financial donation project to assist with the payment, yet using some of the Trail Maintenance Fund money... While this project is

progressing, continuous communications with the Cheboygan County Road Commission Manager regarding Topinabee Mail Route and Brutus Road reconstruction with at least 5-foot shoulders must take place.

**TRAIL MARKERS FOR 911:** Brett Lindgren stated that a good contact for the 911 sign information is Paige Perry at the Gaylord DNR office as she was very helpful with explaining the numbering systems for trails. Brett also stated that there are now 911 signs on the North Central State Trail in the Topinabee area. Hodulik said he would follow up on with this project.

**FINANCIAL STATUS:** Margie Reh said there is **\$2,982 of** Burt Lake Trail donations at Top of Michigan Trail Council. The Trail Fund at CNB is **\$ 24,925.71** as of January 31, 2021, after \$20,000 was transferred from the TOMTC account. Huron Engineering has been paid \$39,243.75 of the **\$51,440 original contract**. The third Huron Engineering invoice #4584, dated 11/11/2021 for **\$18,065.25** was paid February 3, 2022, check #152. A written explanation from Huron Engineering for the additional **\$5,869.00** over the original contract involved 120 hours overtime and additional surveying time. The CNB account balance after this payment on February 3, 2022 is **\$6,860.46**. **A fourth and final invoice will also come from Huron Engineering to complete the project.**

**TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND: Balance January 31,2021 is \$102,621.74. There will be an additional \$10,000 added to this total April 1, 2022.**

**PHASE III CONSTRUCTION COSTS:** To date a total of **\$497,341.95** has been paid to J and N Construction, leaving a balance of **\$10,435.05**, of the **\$507,777.00** Phase III bid unpaid.

**MEETING DATES FOR 2022:** All meetings will be at 7 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Jan 24, Feb 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, and Nov 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday), and for Dec 12 (second Monday).

**NEXT MEETING: MARCH 28, 2022, 7 PM at the Burt Township Hall.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**COMMITTEE COMMENT:** None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Brett Lindgren made motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Goerke. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNED 8:23 pm.**

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

