

**BURT TOWNSHIP  
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on November 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

**ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Paul Janness, Katie Parker, Margie Reh, Mike Goerke, Gary Street, and Brett Lindgren, Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Hodulik

**AGENDA ADDITIONS:** Becky Rivard Huron Engr conversation

**MINUTES:** A motion by Mike Goerke, supported by Brett Lindgren to approve the October 24, 2022 Minutes with correction changing” MDOT to MDNR” in the Topinabee Mail Route paragraph regarding the SPARK Grant. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE:** Leaves and other debris were blown off as much of the trail as the weather allowed before the snow came. Phase I was brush-hogged before the weather turned wintery. Invoice not available yet.

**Becky Rivard,Huron Engr Conversation** Gene Hodulik talked with Becky Rivard regarding Topinabee Mail Route to either go with paved shoulders or off road (if possible). . Hodulik stated that the Trail Committee is at a point where a decision has to be made regarding paved shoulders vs. off road trail, and is willing to spend some money to get the answer. Before doing that Becky said she would provide perliminary information to us which may make the answer clear. In addition the Spark Grant was discussed and that Gary Street is working on one which would be to pave the remaining Phase I trail. Becky volunteered her assistance with the Sparks Grant application. Gary Street will contact her shortly. A township resolution is needed to proceed with the SPARKS Grant. Clerk Christy Kozlowski will be contacted regarding her ability to access MIGrants for the official “signature” for a grant.

**TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE:** The meeting with Heidi Phaneuf of MDOT Northern Planning was held November 9 at 10 am at the Township Hall to discuss the I-75 overpass possibilities and any grants that might be available to assist with paved shoulders. Attendees were Matt Hall, Margie Reh, Brett Lindgren, Gene Hodulik, and Harold Koviak. Margie Reh took Heidi on a tour of the trail which was a very positive step before the meeting. Matt Hall commented that the road commission would not change the date for resurfacing Topinabee Mail Route in our

township next year. Other than this remark, the meeting was very positive. Major summary points from the meeting provided by Margie Reh: either I-75 overpass (M-B Rd or TMR) is not a factor regarding route, that rules of the road for bikers/auto must be signed and followed at the overpass, there are MDOT Grants for northern Michigan projects for either paved shoulders added to the road later or off road trail, Heidi emphasized that there are people in Lansing at both MDOT and DNRTF that are available to assist us to see the east-west connection completed. Heidi also mentioned that UM has given money to public projects and maybe they would consider one for the Gorge entrance upgrade. Margie will send a thank you email to Heidi. This project does not meet the parameters for a SPARK Grant.

**PHASE III CLOSE OUT:** Becky Rivard said she has closed it out, but it will take time to get the final document from MDOT.

**INPUT FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET:** In this month's meeting agenda are all the detail maintenance costs this year paid from the Parks and Rec township budget of \$30,000. This amount is \$14,824.59. The Do It Center cost of \$425.23 was paid from the CNB Donation Account and is not included in the total. Two additional invoices, Slowinski for \$1075 to cut the grass a second time, and Spierling for \$3,580 to repair two wash outs on Phase III, brings the total paid to **\$19,479.59**. **Brush-hogging Phase I of the trail has been completed, but no invoice received yet.** There are a few small expenses that are also taken out of this budget, so the actual amount spent will be a few hundred dollars higher by March 31. **Of the \$19,479.59 expenses this year, \$12,000 has been spent repairing storm damage.**

**As a reminder paving of sections of Phase I this year cost \$30,125, which was paid from the Township Trail Maintenance Fund.**

## NEW BUSINESS

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN:** Gene Hodulik has been assisting Fern Spence of Beckett and Raeder updating the Rec Plan, most of which involves trail information. At the Nov. 10 Planning Commission meeting, the Rec Plan was reviewed page by page and several updates were entered directly by Ken Lane of Beckett and Raeder. A public hearing will be held Dec 15, 6:45 pm followed by the Planning Commission meeting to approve the plan. It must be approved by the Township Board no later than the January 2023 meeting, then sent to the Michigan DNR.

**PAVING OF PHASE I:** There is approximately 3.4 miles of Phase I(5.1 miles long), of the trail that is still limestone. Attention has been focusing on how to proceed to continue to pave sections. Gary Street has measured the segments and worked with the maintenance crews to prioritize by "gaps" and "maintenance work required" to develop a paving plan using an estimate of \$26 per foot that is 10 feet wide. This was reviewed with the following parameter: No work north of Indian Road/WBLR intersection will happen in 2023 as that section of WBLR to Riggsville Road will be reconstructed in 2024 and the status of the trail must be discussed with the county road commission as much of it is in the ROW. On the positive side, it is possible that

while that construction is being done a price break would be available for paving portions of the trail north of Indian Road. Spending the entire trail maintenance fund (probably close to \$100,000) at one time is being discouraged. Discussions involved spending between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in 2023. Gary Street has requested to present to the Township Board at the January meeting, even though the trail committee has not made a recommendation at this time for next year paving expenses.

**FINANCIAL STATUS:** There is **\$12,232.87** of Burt lake Trail donations at Top of Michigan Trail Council. The Trail Fund at CNB is **\$ 6,441.21** as of **October 31, 2022**. **The fourth and final invoice (#1593 dated 10/17/22) from Huron Engineering for \$4,225.50 was paid, check #154 dated Nov.4, 022. So the November 2022 month end balance will be approximately \$2,215.71 plus a few cents interest.**

**TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND:** Balance on October 31, 2022 is **\$82,569.61**.

**PHASE III CONSTRUCTION COSTS:** To date a total of **\$499,260.54** has been paid to J and N Construction, leaving a balance of **\$8,516.46**, 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;** **December 19, if needed, at 7 pm** at the Burt Township Hall

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Brett Lindgren made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Margie Reh. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNED 8:25 pm.**

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary