

**BURT TOWNSHIP  
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**JANUARY 23, 2023**

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on January 23, 2023 at 7:07 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

**ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Dennis Dombroski, Mike Goerke, Gary Street, and Brett Lindgren, Participating via phone was Margie Reh. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Hodulik

**AGENDA ADDITIONS:** None

**MINUTES:** A motion by Mike Goerke, supported by Brett Lindgren to approve the November 21, 2022 minutes. Motion approved. There was no meeting in December 2022.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PHASE III CLOSEOUT:** Still no official close out by MDOT/TAP. Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering stated that the project has been closed and to wait for official word.

**BURT TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC PLAN STATUS;** Was approved by the Township Board at the January 5, 2023 meeting to be transmitted to the DNR by February 1.

**PAVING PHASE I SECTIONS AND GORGE DRIVEWAY:** A few sections south of Indian Road were identified previously by Gary Street to pave this coming spring/summer for approximately \$40,000 which would come from the Trail Maintenance Fund. The intent is to pave the gaps for a continuous trail. The Township board must approve this request.

Paving of the Gorge entrance will be discussed with UM's Karie Slavik this spring to obtain UM cooperation. Matt Hall has agreed to the project. Appropriate permits must be obtained from the county road commission. . Since construction of Phase II was completed, there has been a documented problem consisting of erosion of sand after heavy rains which washes over the trail and then needs to be shoveled off. Dennis Dombroski stated the importance of curbing to keep water from flowing across the paved driveway and trail.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SPARK GRANT;** The SPARK Grant was submitted December 19 to MIGRANTS for \$450,000 and a township match of \$50,000, to pave the remaining sections of Phase I. The grant

writing was led by Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering with important contributions from Gary Street and Margie Reh. Awards of the first \$15 million is scheduled for January 31. There will be two additional releases of \$25 million each this year which can be applied for if we do not receive an award this first phase.

**TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE:** After discussions covering the major points of Becky Rivard's letter regarding Topinabee Mail Route trail possibilities (paved shoulders vs. off road trail), it was agreed that Topinabee Mail Route paved shoulders is the direction to proceed. Hodulik stated that in a conversation with Matt Hall, Cheboygan County Road Commission Manager, that he prefers an off road trail. However the estimated cost (\$1 million vs \$500,000) and probable need for obtaining private easements would make this very difficult. The next step is to hire an engineering firm to create engineering drawings from Mullet-Burt Rd to Woodruff St. in Topinabee, resulting in a joint grant proposal between Mullet and Burt Townships. An Inter-Government Agreement will be necessary similar to the existing one with Munro Township.

Dennis Dombroski brought up the importance of painted "fog" lines to delineate paved shoulders as necessary to separate bikers from autos, a safety issue. This is the responsibility of the county road commission to paint those lines on primary roads.

**BRUTUS ROAD UPDATE:** Margie Reh received an email from the MDOT, Northern Region contact, stating that Emmet County Road Commission received a federal grant for \$1.1 million to reconstruct Brutus road from US 31 going east to the Cheboygan County line. Gene Hodulik called Brent Shank to confirm, but Brent did not know anything about it. Shank contacted MDOT, then returned a call to Hodulik to confirm it. He said the previous Manager had initiated the grant request, which was sponsored by Fed Rep Berman. Hodulik asked when he would construct the road and how wide the shoulders would be for bikers. Shank said 2025 and probably 4 foot shoulders. Hodulik asked to be kept informed as this project proceeds and he said he would. The Trail Committee should contact Maple River Township Board regarding this project. Discussion led to the conclusion that usually the money must be spent in the year allocated or worst case the following year. That would mean construction should take place in 2024 at the latest. Regular communication with both Brent Shank and Matt Hall is important.

**FINANCIAL STATUS:** There is **\$13,182.00** of Burt lake Trail donations at Top of Michigan Trail Council as of **January 18, 2023**. The Trail Fund at CNB is **\$ 2,216.26 as of December 30, 2022**. No invoices were received in December or January 2023. There will be an invoice from Becky Rivard for the Spark Grant which should be about \$500.

**TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND:** Balance on December 30, 2022 is **\$82,583.19**. A total of **\$30,125.00** of this fund was used to pave sections of Phase I in 2022.

**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; February 28, 2023, at 7 pm at the Burt Township Hall.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE COMMENT:** Dombroski asked if the culvert problem on West Burt Lake Road near Hardwood Road had been resolved and the answer was the trail construction was not the issue, it was the property owner having their culvert installed incorrectly on their steep hill.

Reh updated the committee on the new trail maps being created by TOMTC and there will be one just for the Burt Lake Trail. TOMTC received a grant of over \$3,000 that will help pay for all the TOMTC trail maps this spring. Mitchell Graphics will print them. Lindgren stated that Screen Graphics of Indian River also prints maps if a second bid is needed.

Hodulik stated that Sara of Beckett and Raeder, requested pictures of the DNR signs for all three phases of the trail for the new Parks and Rec Plan. There is only one, located at the west side Trailhead on Brutus Road. We may have to purchase two more for Phase II and III.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mike Goerke made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Gary Street. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNED: 8:13 pm.**

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary