

**BURT TOWNSHIP  
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on February 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

**ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Dennis Dombroski, Mike Goerke, Paul Janness, David Jacalone. Participating via phone was Gary Street. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Hodulik

**AGENDA ADDITIONS:** None. Motion by Paul Janness, supported by Mike Goerke to approve agenda as written. Motion approved.

**MINUTES:** A motion by Mike Goerke, supported by Dennis Dombroski to approve the January 23, 2023 minutes. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PHASE III CLOSEOUT:** Still no official close out by MDOT/TAP. Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering stated in last quarter 2022 that the project has been closed and to wait for official word.

**RENEWAL OF THE BURT TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC PLAN STATUS;** The plan was loaded on the DNR website February 1, 2023, and is valid for 2023-2027. Several hard copies will be available for the Township Board and the Planning Commission members and loaded onto the Burt Township web site.

**PAVING PHASE I SECTION AND GORGE DRIVEWAY:** Gary Street recommended that a change from the original plan would be to pave approximately 1700 feet, costing a maximum of \$46,000, starting at the Mundt Road/West Burt Lake Road intersection and going north. A maximum of \$40,000 would come from the Trail Maintenance Fund. The intent is to pave a section which will show progress to the property owners living in that area. After a long discussion it was agreed to pave that section this year, and to defer the original plan to begin to “pave the gaps” in the trail until next year.

A meeting with UM’s Karie Slavik to discuss paving the Gorge entrance, gain UM cooperation, and obtain an estimate from Spierling Trucking should take place this spring. 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. Hodulik suggested planting some native vegetation to also help with the erosion and delineating the exact entrance for automobiles entering the Gorge parking area.

A discussion covering the snowmobiles presently using the trail led to the possible necessity to install the orange gates as installed on the North Central Trail in the Topinabee area to keep four wheelers, side by sides, and snowmobiles off the trail. Dombroski stated that gate information should be available through the Cheboygan DNR location, ( Mr. Stempky).

**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 was not selected. Action plan is to first find out our score, where we must improve, revise the grant and resubmit for the next round. Only 21 of 461 grant requests (about 5 %), were chosen and only two were north of Saginaw. There will be two additional releases of \$25 million each this year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**BURT TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNER LETTER REGARDING TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE:** A letter dated January 25 was received by each Township Board member from Mark Haas, 6986 Weatherhead Road, Cheboygan, regarding this summer's paving of Topinabee Mail Route. His two concerns were safety as a biker or walker and how narrow the road is presently. He would like to see the road widened with paved shoulders and suggested that the finances come from grants, the road commission and the township. The letter will be discussed at the March 2 Township meeting and a written response sent to him.

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. Finances for the study will come from both Burt and Mullet townships. An Inter-Government Agreement will be necessary similar to the existing one with Munro Township. Dennis Dombroski suggested to approach the road commission manager and/or board to sponsor a Multi-Jurisdiction Grant through MDOT for this project. Also suggested by David Jacalone was to contact Cam Cavit, our state representative, for assistance.

**BRUTUS ROAD UPDATE:** Emmet County Road Commission received a federal grant for \$1.1 million to reconstruct Brutus Road in Emmett County. Our continued communication with Brent Shank, Emmett County Road Commission Manager is key to stay informed on this project. The Trail Committee should also inform Maple River Township Board regarding this project. Gary Street will contact Emmett County Planning Dept. director 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. This Brutus Road re-construction will be an important segment toward the goal of connecting to the Northwest State Trail in Brutus.

**MELVIN FAMILY HIKING//BIKING TRAIL AT BENNETT/WOODMANSEE ROADS IN MULLETT TOWNSHIP:** The Melvin family and Little Traverse Conservancy will

develop a 150 acre parcel at Bennett/Woodmansee Roads in Mullett Township with hiking and dirt bike trails starting this year. There may be very little impact with our trail but may increase the biking on the North Central State Trail in Topinabee.

**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 **\$ 2,216.45** as of **January 31, 2023**. **Huron Engineering invoice #5360, dated January 6, for \$500.00 for SPARK Grant writing was paid February 2, check #155. So the new balance is approximately \$1,716.45.**

**TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND:** Balance on January 31, 2023 is **\$82,590.43**.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE COMMENT:** Again Hodulik stated that the Engineering Study should be paid with joint funds from Burt and Mullett Townships proportional to the miles of Topinabee Mail Route in each township.

Mike Goerke stated the Monday July 24 trail meeting will be a conflict with a Mullett Township meeting.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Mike Goerke made the motion to adjourn, supported by Paul Janness. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNED: 8:31 pm.**

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary