

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

MATCH 27, 2023

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

ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Mike Goerke, Paul Janness, David Jacalone, Brett Lindgren, Gary Street. Participating via phone was Margie Reh. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Hodulik

AGENDA ADDITIONS: None. Motion by Brett Lindgren, supported by Mike Goerke to approve agenda as written. Motion approved.

MINUTES: A motion by Mike Goerke, supported by Paul Janness to approve the February 27, 2023 minutes. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

PHASE III CLOSEOUT: Cheboygan County Road Commission (Dana Stempky), has received communication from MDOT the project is “finished”, but final financial data has not yet been provided. When received, it will be sent to Hodulik.

PAVING PHASE I SECTION AND GORGE DRIVEWAY: Hodulik called Mike Spierling to inform him that the plan is to pave 1600 feet (.3 mile), from Mundt Road/West Burt Lake Road intersection going north. Spierling indicated he did not have the spring price of asphalt yet, but to use \$27 per running foot, (width 10 feet), which would be \$43,200. Also discussed was paving the Gorge entrance. An April meeting with Karie Slavik to obtain agreement on the project, followed by a second meeting with Karie Slavik, Mike Spierling, and Gene Hodulik will be necessary to finalize the paving of the entrance and estimate cost.

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. There is still no feedback from the DNR. Action plan is to first find out our score, where we must improve, revise the grant and resubmit for the next round.

BURT TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNER LETTER REGARDING TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE: A response to the January 25 letter received by each Township Board member from Mark Haas, 6986 Weatherhead Road, Cheboygan, regarding this summer’s paving of Topinabee Mail Route was sent March 4. Addressed were his two concerns, safety as a biker or walker and how narrow the road is presently. The plan to have 5 foot paved shoulders added in the next 2 to

3 years to the road and financed by applying for a MDOT Grant with required matching donations was included, as well as inviting him to Burt Township meetings and trail meetings.

TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE. Gene Hodulik discussed possible grants with Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering and Matt Hall, Cheboygan County Road Commission on March 23. Matt Hall agreed to sponsor a Multi-Jurisdiction MDOT Grant which will be written by Becky Rivard. The grant will be for paved shoulders from Mullet-Burt Rd to Woodruff St. in Topinabee. This will be a joint MDOT grant proposal for the two townships. If awarded the \$450,000 grant with a 20% match (\$90,000), finances for the match will come from both Burt and Mullett townships proportionately. An Inter-Government Agreement will most likely be necessary before construction would begin in 2025.

BRUTUS ROAD UPDATE: Emmet County Road Commission received a federal grant for \$1.1 million to reconstruct Brutus Road from US 31 east to the Cheboygan county line. Our continued communication with Brent Shank, Emmett County Road Commission Manager is important to stay informed on this project to confirm that paved shoulders for biking will be included. Gary Street volunteered to contact the Emmett County Planning Dept. Director, whom he knows, to discuss their understanding of this project. A follow up presentation to the Maple River Township Board may be appropriate. Usually the Federal Grant money must be spent in the year allocated (2023) or worst case the following year (2024). This Brutus Road reconstruction is an important segment toward the goal of connecting to the Northwest State Trail in Brutus.

NEW BUSINESS

TRAIL MAP VERBAGE BY TOMTC: The verbage describing the Burt Lake Trail has been completed by Margie Reh with assistance of TOMTC staff. The map is now being developed.

STATUS OF THE “TO DO” LIST: Updates to this list are provided on a separate page to be included with the minutes. Updates will continue until completed.

REVIEW WITH MIKE SPIERLING WORK FOR 2023: Gene Hodulik had a phone conversation with Mike Spierling regarding the usual work each spring, power sweep the trail, fill in low spots that need more crushed limestone on Phase I, pave about 1600 to 1700 feet of Phase I and meet with UM regarding possible paving of the Gorge entrance.

TRAIL UPDATE PRESENTED TO MULLETT AND MUNRO TOWNSHIPS: Gene Hodulik has been invited to the April 10 Mullett TS meeting to present an update of the trail and the joint MDOT Grant proposal, including finances, for paved shoulders on Topinabee Mail Route. Munro update will be held after progress is made regarding the Gorge entrance plan.

DNR PASSPORT GRANT APPLICATION: Discussions between Gene Hodulik and Becky Rivard led to an agreement that she will write a Passport Grant for \$150,000 with a \$50,000 match to pave a portion of the Phase I Trail. Proposal must be entered by April 3. This is an opportunity for grant funds since the SPARK Grant has not announced phase 2 yet.

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 **\$ 1,716.76** as of **March 31, 2023**. **Huron Engineering invoice #5360, dated January 6, for \$500.00 for SPARK Grant writing was paid February 2, check #155.**

TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND: Balance on March 31, 2023 is **\$82,603.79**. **April 1 an additional \$10,000 plus the remainder money in the Parks and Rec budget will be transferred to this fund.**

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 2023: All meetings will be at 7 pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Jan 24, Feb 28, March 28, April 24, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, and Nov 21 (3rd Monday), and for Dec 12 (second Monday).

NEXT MEETING; April 24, 2023, at 7 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE COMMENT: Again Hodulik stated that the 20% match and final engineering drawings and construction reporting should be paid with joint funds from Burt and Mullett Townships proportional to the miles of Topinabee Mail Route in each township, 2 miles for Burt (70%) and .8 mile for Mullett (30%).

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

ADJOURNED: 8:15 pm.

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

Attachment: "To Do" list as part of the minutes

1. Meeting with Karie Slavik to discuss Gorge Driveway paving (Katie, Gene)

Katie Parker talked to Karie Slavik. She agreed to meeting when she gets here in April.

2. Mike Spierling meeting to pave Gorge (Gene,Gary, Dennis?)

Gene Hodulik talked on the phone with Mike Spierling 3/23 to update him on Gorge driveway plan. First a meeting with Karie Slavik is planned and if she agrees to go forward, review a possible entrance and approximate cost from Mike, followed by a final meeting with Karie, Mike and anyone else.

3.Meeting with Emmit Co. Planner about Brutus Road (Gary)**4.Maple River Township Meeting—update on trail/Brutus Rd (Gary and Gene)****5. Meeting with Munro TS—update on Gorge entrance plan and cost (Gene)**

6. Investigate orange gates and cost (who? Paul?,Brett?) Brett obtained engineering drawings of the gate from Dave Stempky (DNR) which were constructed by Moran Iron Works in Onaway, powder coated orange by "Scope" in Petoskey. Discussion followed stating they are not attractive and there are many places where ATV's can get on the trail. Suggested a camera or two at defined spots might work better.

7. Huron Engr.--Proposal for Topinabee Mail Route engineering cost (Gene)

Hodulik had a phone conversation with Becky Rivard 3/23. She can submit a MDOT Grant with the data she has on Topinabee Mail Route. Engineering specs to build the paved shoulders will be done once a Grant is awarded.

8. Spark Grant update and re-submit (Margie and Gary) No new info. However Becky Rivard suggested we apply for a DNR Passport Grant for \$ 150,000 with a \$50,000 match which was submitted April 3 to be used to pave Phase I.

9. Meeting with Mullett TS board to present TMR /grants (Gene,Mike,Brett)

Laz Serabian, Mullett Supervisor, called 3/24 to invite Hodulik to present MDOT Grant proposal and finances at the April 10 meeting. Hodulik accepted.

10. TOMTC new map of the Burt Lake Trail (Margie). TOMTC staff and Margie Reh have written the trail description and a map is the next step.

- 11. Discussion with Matt Hall regarding sponsorship of a Burt/Mullett Multi-Jurisdiction Grant through MDOT** (Gene, Dennis?, and supervisors?) Hodulik phone call 3/24 gained agreement that Matt Hall would sponsor the Burt/Mullett Multi-Jurisdictional MDOT Grant. Rivard will enter a grant due May 1, "Highway Safety Improvement Project", asking for \$450,000 with a 20% match (90,000) Also discussed West Burt Lake Rd construction and engineering drawings have not been started yet.

- 12. Update Cam Cavitt, state rep on our TMR project (?)**
Cam will be at the Mullett TS hosting MTA meeting in April

- 13. Review the yearly entire trail maintenance, plus paving Phase I section with Mike Spierling and rehire Slowinski for grass mowing(Gary).**Gene Hodulik reviewed with Mike Spirling on 3/23 phone call about the Gorge entrance.. Told him that Gary Street would be calling him regarding the maintenance and paving.