

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on November 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Mike Goerke, Dennis Dombrowski, and Margie Reh on the phone. Excused were Paul Janness and Brett Lindgren. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Hodulik

AGENDA ADDITIONS: None

MINUTES: Not a quorum to vote. Approval postponed until next meeting..

OLD BUSINESS

PHASE III CLOSEOUT: No report from the County Road Commission clerk.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: Phase III (Riggsville to Birchwood) has been cleared of leaves by Gordy Ormsbee. Phase II yet to be done. Phase I, Allen Kozlowski has blown the far west section of Phase I. There has been no feedback regarding the rest of Phase I. Hodulik sent a thankyou note to the Forsmarks' for beautifying the trail this summer and fall at the back of their property at the corner of Birchwood and East Burt Lake Road (Phase III).

Mike Goerke provided information on a power sweeper, 23.5 inches wide with a 7 HP motor called the Super Handy GUT097, \$719.00, which could be used to clear the asphalt portion of the trail. It is ideal for sweeping now, leaves, dirt, light gravel and other debris and can be angled left and right up to 20 degrees. Obviously it would require someone to operate it.

GRANTS STATUS: There are now two grants outstanding waiting for award decisions.

The MDOT grant, a joint grant with Mullett Township for paved shoulders on Topinabee Mail Route is for \$450,000 with a \$90,000 match (\$64,000 Burt and \$26,000 Mullett), with notification in December, and the second is a Passport Grant for \$150,000 and a \$50,000 match for paving Phase I with late November notification of winners. We have received the score of 125 out of a possible 250 points, which probably not high enough to receive a grant.

Dennis Dombrowski stated that the emphasis of the grants is to create new off road trails and not maintain them which is a township responsibility, until they are 20 years old, so the chances of obtaining a grant to pave Phase I is not going to happen. It will have to be done by the township over a period of years unless a method to raise funds is established to make it happen quicker.

Margie Reh stated she would re-establish contacts with both the DNR and MDOT representatives to review our best grant opportunities. Hodulik will contact Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering to review the status of the MDOT Grant.

GORGE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE: Hodulik will contact Mike Spierling when the construction season ends to discuss the culvert vs. catch basin approach and estimated costs, to solve the problem of driveway erosion and sediment being dumped on the trail. Mergie Reh stated that the Gorge and its trails have just been dedicated to Mark Paddock (former Biostation Director) and that UM may be open to spending some money to improve the Gorge parking area. The goal is get the driveway project approved by UM staff and the Cheboygan CRC before spring of next year to be in place to be paved.

CRUMP ROAD TRAIL HEAD: Hodulik sent a letter November 6,2023 to Sharon O’Neal, the owner of the corner lot at Crump and Mullett-Burt Roads regarding a possible swap of lots. Hodulik read the letter that was sent. There has been no response as of this meeting. Hodulik will contact Shirley Reimann to confirm the address and any other means of contact.. The corner store property is still being monitored by EGLE, but no updates for nearly two years regarding the solution to the contamination. This would also be an excellent location for a trail head on the East side.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 TRAIL MAINTENANCE BUDGETING: Trail Maintenance Account has **\$78,958.74** as of **OCTOBER 31,2023**. This fiscal year approximately \$47,000 will have been spent from the \$53,000 Parks and Rec Budget, which included \$23,000 being moved from the Trail Maintenance Fund. Projects for 2024 to be considered are additional paving of Phase I, Paving the entrance of the Gorge on Phase II, creating an east side trail head, and paved shoulders on Topinabee Mail Route (Grant required). The budget for 2024 will be discussed at the Feb 26, 2024 trail meeting to provide input to the Township budgeting meeting in March.

FINANCIAL STATUS: There is **\$14,182.00** of Burt Lake Trail donations at Top of Michigan Trail Council as of **October 23, 2023**. The Trail Fund at CNB is **\$ 717.48 as of October 31,2023**.

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 2024: All meetings will be at 7 pm on the 4th Monday of the month. **NO meetings in December 2023 or January 2024. First meeting for 2024 will be Feb 26**, followed by March 25, April 22, May 20 (3rd Monday), June 24, July 22, Aug 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, and Nov 18 (3rd Monday).

NEXT MEETING; FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AT 7 PM AT THE BURT TOWNSHIP HALL.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

COMMITTEE COMMENT: The Cheboygan County Road Commission will re-construct West Burt Lake Road from Riggsville going south to Indian Road in 2024. It is important we are kept up to date on the engineering plans and how it will affect the trail paralleling the road, which is in the 33 ft. road right of way in certain areas.. Hodulik said Matt Hall, Manager of CRC, has told him that Becky Rivard is the lead engineer for this project. Hodulik will contact her for updates.

County Road Commission should be required to repaint the trail division lines (fog lines) on the WBLR/Brutus Road paved shoulders curve next year which have faded badly this year. This is done by PK Painting , Lake City.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Mike Goerke, supported by Dennis Dombroski to adjourn. . Motion passed.

ADJOURNED: 8:06 pm.

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary