

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on February 26,2024 at 7:05 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Mike Goerke, Paul Janness, Brett Lindgren, Katie Parker, and Margie Reh. A very special welcome to Kim Kihnke and Jerry Trudell. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Hodulik

AGENDA ADDITIONS: Motion by Mike Goerke, second by Paul Janness to add “Approval of November 20,2023 minutes” to the Agenda. Motion approved.

MINUTES: Motion by Brett Lindgren, seconded by Paul Janness to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

PHASE III CLOSEOUT: No report from the County Road Commission clerk. There is a high probability that we will never be notified of the final closeout.

GRANTS UPDATE: The DNR Passport Grant will not be applied for this year, but would make sense when the final decision is made regarding the location of an east side trailhead. DNR does not provide grants for maintenance of trails until 20 years old, so there is no availability until approximately 2033.

A MDOT Grant should again be pursued for Topinabee Mail Route paved shoulders as a joint effort with Mullett Township, supported by the Cheboygan County Road Commission. Hodulik will contact Matt Hall, CCRC Manager for support. The 2023 grant request needs to be reviewed for possible improvements. Becky Rivard of Huron Engineering will be hired for the grant submittal. This grant is for \$ 450,000 with a \$90,000 match (\$64,000 for Burt Township and \$26,000 for Mullett Township).

CORNER STORE/EGLE STATUS: Hodulik gave an update from an EGLE report provided to the Township Board members by Cam Cavitt, our State Representative, which provided a plan with dates regarding cleanup of the property which will involve removing the building, excavating the area under the store, and a financial relocation package to the owner of the property. The Township Board is concerned that the underground contaminated liquid “ploom” is moving northwest toward the creek which drains into Burt Lake. The EGLE Project Manager, Melissa Kendzierski, will be attending the March Township Board meeting to discuss

the cleanup plan. The trail committee has always been interested in the property as a possible trailhead on the east side. Kim Kihnke stated that when the time is right, there could be a grant available from the Realtors Association as well as a DNR Passport Grant to improve the site.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 PROJECTS AND PROPOSED BUDGET:

Hodulik reviewed the 2024 budget that he presented to the Township Board at the February meeting. This year's budget is divided into 2 areas: Maintenance and Paving. Maintenance budget is \$9,400 and Paving is \$61,700, for a total budget \$71,100. Paving budget is \$52,800 for ½ mile of Phase I and \$8,900 for the Gorge entrance. Paving ½ mile per year will require 5 more years to finish paving Phase I, assuming there is enough money in the Trail Maintenance Fund.

The emphasis of the NDR grants is to create new off road trails and not maintain them which is a township responsibility, until they are at least 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 the next 5 years, paving ½ mile per year, unless a method to raise funds is established to make it happen quicker.

The Trail Maintenance Fund has \$ 78,978.64 as of January 31, 2024. Approximately \$ 5,308.89 remained in the 2023 Parks and Rec Budgets as well as the yearly allocation of \$10,000 will bring the Trail Maintenance Fund to approximately \$ 94,287.53. So added to the \$30,000 Parks and Rec Budget for 2024 will be \$ 41,000 which will bring the Trail Maintenance Fund down to \$53,287.53 by the end of 2024.

TOMTC Burt Lake Trail account has \$16,152.00 in donations. The trail account at CNB has \$717.73 as of January 31, 2024.

Margie Reh stated she will 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, to be resubmitted for paved shoulders on Topinabee Mail Route as a joint proposal with Mullett Township,

GORGE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE: Hodulik contacted Mike Spierling, who provided a proposal to pave the Gorge entrance for \$8,900 using either a culvert or catch basin, to solve the problem of driveway erosion and sediment being dumped on the trail. The goal is to get the driveway project approved by UM staff(Kerri Slavik) and the Cheboygan CRC to be paved this year. UM will be asked to help finance the project.

CRUMP ROAD TRAIL HEAD: There has been no response to the Hodulik letter sent to Sharon O'Neal November 6, 2023, regarding the corner lot at Crump/Mullett-Burt Rd. Hodulik contacted Shirley Reimann to confirm the address and to let him know when the taxes were paid for a new contact address. As of this meeting the taxes had not been, which means the tax payment has been turned over to the County for payment.

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; MARCH 25, 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 will contact Becky Rivard, the lead engineer for this project, to review the plans, especially near the Indian Road intersection.

A special thank you to Jerry Trudell for all his time, equipment, and great job he does maintaining the Phase I Trail, especially the crushed limestone areas. His spring maintenance recommendations will be critical for the crushed limestone areas that need improvement.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Brett Lindgren, supported by Margie Reh to adjourn. . Motion passed.

ADJOURNED: 8:25 pm.

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary