

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

APRIL 29, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Katie Parker on April 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

ATTENDANCE: Committee members:(Gene Hodulik and Paul Janness were 5 minutes late), Katie Parker, Margie Reh, Jerry Trudell, Mike Goerke and Brett Lindgren. Dennis Dombroski excused. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Parker

AGENDA ADDITIONS: Motion by Katie Parker to add trail cleanup to agenda and seconded by Brett Lindgren, Motion approved.

MINUTES: Motion by Mike Goerke, seconded by Jerry Trudell to approve the March 25, 2024 minutes. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANTS UPDATE:

Margie Reh updated Julie Dennis of MDOT/TAP via email with answers to her questions, provide more summary information, and reinforced our need to know what approach we need to take to obtain a TAP Grant in the next couple years. Margie provided all trail members present with a summary page of the three grants which provide money to add paved shoulders to Topinabee Mail Route(MDOT TAP and MDOT HSIP), and pave Phase I of the trail (Shared Streets and Spaces).

MDOT TAP Grants are submitted every quarter. Two discussions with Julie Dennis, MDOT grant manager for our region stated we are eligible, but not competitive for adding paved shoulders. She stated we would be competitive for an off road trail or wait until the road is paved again in 7-10 years. We will not submit a request this year.

The second. Highway Safety Improvement Program was applied for last year. Due May 1, we are reapplying again this year for \$500,000 with a 20% match as a joint project with Mullett Township. Becky Rivard will write the request. This grant does not cover engineering but that should be a much lower price as drawings already exist for the road.

The third, Shared Streets and Spaces Grant must be applied for by June 7,2024. It was agreed to have Becky Rivard write the grant which is available through MDOT funded by federal money.

This grant requires an incorporated city sponsor (Cheboygan has been contacted through Jim Conboy by Margie Reh). Margie will contact the City Manager to hopefully obtain co-operation. The maximum grant is \$200,000 with no match required. A Burt Township Board resolution is also required. Grants are submitted every quarter providing more time to create a grant submission. This grant money could be used for Phase I paving or Topinabee Mail Route paved shoulders.

The committee again had a long discussion regarding an alternate route using Bennett Road with its Melvin Dirt Bike Trails property, less traffic, and 2 ft .paved shoulders, and a shorter I-75 overpass with better visibility. Directional signs could be used for bikers going toward the North Central State Trail in Topinabee and in the opposite direction to the Burt Lake Trail. A landing spot on both side of US 27 would be required for bikers.

CORNER STORE/EGLE STATUS: No new information from EGLE project manager Melissa Kendzierski.. See last month's minutes for details. The Township would get the property for a trail head, but details of that transaction have not be discussed yet.

2024 PROJECTS: The budget was divided into two parts, Maintenance: \$9,400 (power sweeping, extra gravel application, mow three times, brine the gravel part, blow leaves in the fall) and Improvements: \$71,000 to pave ½ mile of Phase I and pave the Gorge entrance. Bike Stencils will be painted where needed and Trail Maps installed which were made last fall.

WEST BURT LAKE ROAD PAVING UPDATE: Becky Rivard has been involved with the project and informed Hodulik that 3 ft paved shoulders will be on the road and that the Indian Road intersection going north will be paved again to include the trail as it is currently paved. This past week the county road commission has been installing several new culverts across the road as required for the reconstruction of the road.

NEW BUSINESS

SHARED STREETS SAFETY MDOT GRANT: Margie Reh explained this offering from MDOT which has a max of \$200,000 awarded with no match required. This grant requires an incorporated city such as Cheboygan as a sponsor. Margie has already contacted Jim Conboy (TOMTC/Cheboygan Trails) regarding possible sponsorship by the city of Cheboygan. Margie will also contact the Cheboygan City manager for possible support. This grant could be used for Phase I paving.

INSTALL TRAIL MAPS AND PAINT BIKE STENCILS: Hodulik, Paul Janess and Mike Goerke will install the maps on 4 by 4 posts and paint bike stencils before the next meeting.

TRAIL CLEANUP : Hodulik will contact Mike Spierling to power sweep the trail now and set up a meeting with Karie Slavik, Mike Spierling, and Hodulik to resolve the Gorge entrance paving project. Hodulik will contact Gordon Ormsbee regarding trimming/mowing the trail in

later May. Jerry Trudell will power rake the stone trail and define areas that need stone. Areas where the county just installed new culverts preparing for the repaving of West Burt Lake Road (from Riggsville to Indian Road), which damaged the trail, will be repaired with stone paid by the county and labor paid by the township to Spierling.

FINANCES

The **Trail Maintenance Fund** has **\$ 78,991.20** as of March 29, 2024. Approximately \$ 5,308.89 remained in the 2023 Parks and Rec Budgets as well as the yearly allocation of \$10,000 which will bring the Trail Maintenance Fund balance to approximately **\$ 94,203.81 on April 1, 2024**. 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 \$53,203.81 by the end of 2024**.

TOMTC Burt Lake Trail account has a balance of \$16,272.00 in donations. The trail account at CNB has \$717.85 as of March 29, 2024.

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; MAY 20, 2024 AT 7 PM AT THE BURT TOWNSHIP HALL.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

COMMITTEE COMMENT: Dividing lines for the 6 foot paved trail from West Burt Lake Road and Brutus Road curve need to be painted this season. The Township Board needs to allocate at least \$10,000 to \$15,000 more to the Trail Maintenance Fund yearly to complete the paving of Phase I in 4 to 5 years.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by Brett Lindgren, supported by Mike Goerke to adjourn. . Motion passed.

ADJOURNED: 8:11 pm.

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

