

BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE

March 3, 2010

Committee Present: Gary Street, Ann Baughman, Burt Ebbers, Connie Vorenkamp, Linda Caverly

Also attending: Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Pillen, Leo & Virginia Chenevere, Joan Keiser, Carmen Crockett, John Crockett, Brent Pasney, Dennis Reimann, Katie Parker-Ebbers, Shirley Reimann, Ed Reimann, Jackie Howell, Shirl Aittama, Lorraine Ostwald, Renie Kinney, Marilyn Bonnett, Patrick LaLonde, Jim Betancourt, Tom Stephanil, Dennis Dombroski, Mary Street, Joyce Hutto-Recording Secretary.

The Burt Lake Trails Committee was called to order by Gary Street on March 3, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Burt Township Hall, Cheboygan, Michigan.

Gary Street reviewed meeting protocol.

Moved by Connie Vorenkamp and seconded by Bert Ebbers to accept the minutes of January 29, 2010.

Bert Ebbers explained changes have been made to the feasibility study of 2008 which is shown on the Burt Township website. Routing has changed in some places and will continue to change as inputs and suggestions are received. A map was displayed of the trail route as of today. Bert explained where the route would start and on which side of the road each part of the route would be. The route is intended for bicycles and walkers and is not intended for motorized vehicles except motorized wheelchairs.

Gary Street said this is the early part of planning of the trail. Changes will be made and the committee is open to input from the public. The committee is flexible to suit the needs of the users and landowners. The proposed trail will be 10 foot wide with crushed limestone. The trail is an outgrowth of a Master Plan process over 5 years ago in Burt Township. A survey was taken of recreational facilities needed and a trail was at the top of the list. A Recreation Plan was written including the trail and this proposed trail is part of the process of that plan.

Public Input

When is the committee planning to contact property owners? Gary Street said the plan is to contact the property owners starting in May when most of the owners are in the area. Open house for open discussion will be held and each individual property owner will be contacted. A mailing was sent out with taxes in December telling about the trail. Local newspaper articles have been written and the trail is shown on the Burt Township website.

What can be done to better inform people of the trail?

Notices of meetings to be put in the Straitsland Resorter and on the Burt Township website. Informational sessions will be held so people can learn what the concepts of the trail are.

Will the Township be “taking” property to build the Trail? Absolutely not! Easements will be sought for the Trail to cross private property, but the decision to grant the easement will lie entirely with the property owner. Under no circumstances will private property be used for the Trail unless the property owner has granted an easement to the Township. If an easement is not granted the Township will need to look at alternate routing, including running the trail along the road right of way.

How will you keep snowmobiles off the trail?

Posts could be installed to prevent the snowmobiles but still allow bikers and walkers.

If the trail is 10’ wide where does the 10’ start?

Each parcel of land will need to be looked at as they are all different. Each individual owner will have a say as to where the most reasonable place is to put the trail on their property. (In some instances the trail may be located partially or entirely in the road right-of way.)

Why not make the shoulders wider on each side of the road instead of constructing an off road trail?

Safety is an issue and it is best for the trail to be off the road.

Suggestion of route

A suggestion was made to take advantage of the beauty of the lake. To see more views of the lake, the trail could be located on the west side of East Burt Lake Road, then Roberts Road to Hogsback. Instead of following the main road on the west side of the lake, follow Indian Point Road around Colonial Point to Chickagami Road ending at Maple Bay camp grounds.

Connie Vorenkamp spoke about the safety of the trail. Connie thanked those who were at the meeting and stressed the committee wants to work with the public and wants the public to work with the committee by coming to the meetings to ask questions and give comments. Gary Street said the committee invites anyone to join as a volunteer to work with them.

What is the timeline for contacting homeowners about the easements?

Gary Street said the most needed areas are from Hoppies to Birchwood Road and on the west side of the lake from Maple Bay campground to the Hardwood Road. These areas have the most safety issues. The process will start soon by talking with property owners and this will take at least 6 months.

Will the citizens get to vote on the trail?

No, it is the decision of the Burt Township board. A public hearing will be held March 4, 2010 at the township hall. The purpose of this meeting is to endorse the application for a grant from Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund. The committee is still at the starting point of work to be done and decisions to be made. The location of the trail will depend on easements granted.

Who will maintain the trail?

Burt Township will take care of maintenance. Maintenance will be low by using the crushed limestone. There is a concern of the cost of maintenance on boardwalks. It is hoped there will be volunteers to help keep the trail clean of debris.

What will be done about crossing the expressway?

Dennis Dombroski (Mullett Township Board Member) answered this question saying the best way is for the trail to cross the expressway on the Mullett Burt Road. Warning signs will be used. He does not favor the trail crossing the expressway on Mail Route Road because of the curve and facing into the sun. It is too dangerous.

Gary handed out an FAQ sheet. This will also be put on the website.

Gary ended the meeting saying this proposed trail is in the early stages. The committee will not keep the public in the dark. They are there to answer questions. Volunteers are welcome to join and help with the trail. Property rights will not be taken away. Routes can be changed.

Moved by Bert Ebbers and seconded by Ann Baughman to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hutto, Recording Secretary