

BURT TOWNSHIP
Ad Hoc Trails Committee Meeting
October 22, 2008

The Ad Hoc Trail Committee Meeting was called to order by Gary Street, Chair of the Planning Commission, on October 22, 2008, at 7:00 pm, at the Burt Township Hall, Cheboygan, Michigan.

Committee: Gary Street, Ann Baughman, Frank Kestler, Dean Pollard, Bert Ebbers, Kim Kihnke

Absent: Steve Vorenkamp

Guests: Mac Richardson, BLPA; Bob Anton; Tom Stanley Top of Mich Trail Council; Kortney Hahn, Straitland Resorter

Agenda:

No additions

Public Comment Period:

Bob Anton asked where the funds for the trail will come from and if they will come from the tax base. Gary said the plan is for funding from MDOT and DNR rather than township taxes. Township residents would have to approve any tax monies used for this purpose. For grant purposes, however, the Township may need to put in a small amount to show their support for the plan.

Bob Anton said bicycle paths are nice but there will be complaints about off road vehicles and snowmobiles on the paths. Street said those are all issues to be addressed and funding may dictate some of that.

Mac Richardson asked if there has been any opposition to the trail idea. Street said only been positive comments have been received.

Tom Stanley commented that the Top of Michigan Trails Council has seen no conflicts with snowmobiles and bikes as they are used in different seasons and that the crushed limestone trails work for both. However, off road vehicles and bicycles do not work on the same paths well.

Mr. Anton said he likes peace and quiet, not the noise from snowmobiles. He said his house is close to the road and is concerned that from middle of road inward is only 33'. Where would be the easement? Street told him that the right of way varies from 66' to 100' but an option for the bike path could be a separate path along the road in some places. He reminded Mr. Anton that this is all preliminary and the committee does not have all the answers at this point.

Mr. Anton wanted to know if approval for wetlands will be sought. Gary said it has been identified in the report that bridges or boardwalks may be needed in some areas to allow for wetlands.

Ann Baughman noted that West and East Burt Lake Roads are priorities for safety reasons so secondary routes may be later and those issues will come up later. Tom Stanley said connectivity of trails is an important for funding, and that it would be good to do the whole trail all at one time rather than in segments.

Dean Pollard wanted to know how much money could be expected from the township. Street said it could be 10-20% to show public support. But, a resident vote would be needed for that amount of tax money from the township.

Tom Stanley said that all townships along the Gaylord to Mackinaw trail supported the project financially in some way. In some cases the support was very minimal, but nevertheless, it was provided.

Agenda Items

1. Approval of Trail Feasibility Study

Burt Township Board final approval is not needed as the study was pre-approved. They had previously approved going ahead with the Feasibility Study.

2. Distribution

Trail Feasibility Study and letters will be mailed to:

- (1) MDOT
- (2) DNR
- (3) NEMCOG
- (4) Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- (5) Little Traverse Conservancy
- (6) Others?

Presentation along with Trail Feasibility Study and letters to be made to:

- (1) Burt Lake Preservation Assoc. (on agenda for December)
- (2) Mullett Township
- (3) Tucarora Township
- (4) Maple River Township
- (5) Munro Township
- (6) Cheboygan County Planning Commission
- (7) Cheboygan County Road Commission
- (8) Emmet County ?

Mac Richardson asked what type of support the Committee looking for from BLPA. Gary said it is just a general support of the concept of a bicycle path for Burt Township.

Frank Kestler suggested that when talking to people, make sure they know it is a future item.

Tom Stanley asked if a traffic usage survey has been done because if an argument about safety is being make a survey would be useful. Ann Baughman said there has been traffic counters in the past but doesn't remember how long it has been.

Tom said a good study would be non-motorized use of the roads as well.

Mac Richardson said that delivery trucks going to Hoppie's on Mullett-Burt Road is a safety issue.

Frank Kestler wanted to know why presentation to other townships is necessary. Gary said for funding purposes, it is important to present the trail as a connector trail, not a Burt Township trail.

3. Funding

The next funds needed will be for an engineering study, after that would be for construction. Gary will check with Emily Meyerson about funding sources for engineering.

Frank Kestler and Bert Ebbers suggested that the committee decide which kind of trail, paved shoulder or separate trail, should be determined before going forward.

The committee agreed on the following:

1. Separate path wherever possible
2. Crushed limestone is okay to save on costs
3. Bridges or boardwalks over wetlands would be too expensive and in areas where they would be needed, the trail could move closer alongside of the road. We will look into ways of avoiding construction of a boardwalk or bridge.
4. Non-motorized trail

This information should be included in the letter with the Trail Feasibility Study.

Items for Trails Committee meeting on November 19, 2008, at 7 pm:

1. Dean Pollard said the committee should decide which roads should be done first.
2. Service Road on the map is incorrect and should be changed
3. Bert Ebbers will check out the wetlands
4. Gary Street and Ann Baughman will work on the standardized presentation
5. Ann Baughman and Frank Kestler will write the letter for the DNR
6. Tom Stanley said TOMTC will write a letter of support for the project
7. Tom Stanley will get names of engineering firms

Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Donna McDougall
Recording Secretary
Planning Commission