

BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE

April 21, 2010

Committee present: Gary Street, Ann Baughman, Bert Ebbers, Leo Chenevere, Virginia Chenevere.

Also attending: Jim Conboy, Jeff Winegard, Barbara Nelson-Jameson, Donna McDougall, Harold Koviak, Bobbie Rumford, Reena King, Lorraine Ostwald, Elizabeth Parkey, Raymond Carlson, Mary Street, Bruce Strachan, James J. Larson, Dennis Dombroski.

Minutes

Moved by Ann Baughman and seconded by Bert Ebbers to accept the minutes of March 3, 2010.

Public Comment

Lorraine Ostwald commented she was here to see what is new.

Update

Gary Street said the applications for a grant to the Michigan DNR and MDOT have been submitted. These two sources are the major funding for the trail. In regard to the DNR application, an accurate description of the trail route will need to be worked on with the property owners along the trail by September 2010. \$150,000 is needed by September. This money will be funded by the community with volunteer contributions and not from taxes. It is expected that most of the \$150,000 will be in the form of pledges rather than actual cash contributions. The committee should hear from MDOT sometime near July 2010 if they are approved. If approved, the money would not be available for several months and would probably not be available until late 2011 or 2012.

Brochure

The brochure prepared by Connie Vorenkamp was shown and will be printed soon. The purpose of the brochure is to give information of the project. They will be made available at the township Transfer Stations. Consideration will be given to adding the FAQ to explain about easements, liabilities of land owners, etc.

Easement Letters

Connie Vorenkamp has put together a package for land owners. A letter will be sent out to the property owner to set up an appointment for someone from the committee to meet with that person to answer questions about the trail.

Informational meetings

Informal meetings will be set up for anyone to drop in to ask questions and give comments. It is expected the first such meeting will be in early to mid June. Ann Baughman and Virginia Chenevere have volunteered to help on this. It should be publicized in the Petoskey, Cheboygan and Straitsland Resorter newspapers and on the web site. A comment sheet will be available at the meetings.

Easement Agreement

A draft of the easement agreement has been prepared by Tim MacArthur, Burt Township attorney. It is a legal agreement between the landowners and the township.

Pledge Form

This form is for pledge money to go through TOMTC, an organization representing trails in Northern Michigan. The organization is a 501c3 making the pledges a deductible contribution. TOMTC has a separate account for the Burt Lake Trail. Virginia Chenevere asked what will happen if the \$150,000 is not made by September. Gary Street said the application will be put on hold for 1 year to raise the money. The pledge money would be postponed until needed when the construction begins.

Silent Campaign

Supporters of the trail have been asked to get the fund raising started. Private party fundraisers will be held to raise money. A mail campaign will also be sent out. Hoppies will hold a fund raiser event after Labor Day. Ann Swayze has volunteered to help with fund raising parties.

Future Meeting Dates

Trail meeting dates are set up for the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Mary Street asked about the importance of the number of contributors giving money. Is it important to have many contributors rather than a few contributors giving a large sum? Ann Baughman said it is important to have many contributors as this shows more support of the trail. Mary Street also asked if pledges could be given in memory of someone. This could be added to the pledge form. The money is not collected until the go-ahead is received from the DNR grant.

Jim Larson asked if a property owner would be liable if people wander off the trail and are injured on the property owner's property. Jim Conboy answered that the person would be trespassing and your homeowners insurance would take care of it. Information about liability will be in the easement agreement and also at the informational meetings.

Jim Conway was asked about the economic benefits of a trail. Conway said studies show a 13% increase in real estate property value. Barbara Nelson-Jameson said that visitors in the area will stay a longer length of time where a trail is available to use, therefore increasing the economy in that area.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next Meeting is May 19, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Hutto, Recording Secretary