

TRAIL PLANNING MEETING

May 15, 2009

The Burt Township Trails Committee met at the Pellston Airport, May 15, 2009 at 9 a.m. 17 members were present.

NAME OF TRAIL

Gary Street opened with a discussion of naming the trail. The proposed name was North Burt Connector Trail. Ann Baughman said she thought the name was too long. DNR suggests the name should identify geographically where the trail is located. It was decided that Burt Lake Trail is the name to be used as the working name for now.

COMMITTEE NAME

The proposed name Burt Lake Trail Alliance was decided to be the working name for the committee.

TRAIL TIMING

Gary Street said the trail should become a regional trail and be developed in different phases as to obtaining funds, getting easement permits, deciding the route, and construction of the trail. April 1, 2010 is the goal to get the application to the DNR for funding. Before the application is submitted, the commitments for easements must be obtained, and a detailed engineering study submitted for the best route of the trail.

ROLE OF THE BURT LAKE TRAIL ALLIANCE

Gary presented a list of the goals and emphasized that the townships work together. Mutual support is needed for funding. Publicizing and organizing events to make the public aware of the trail is very important. Tom Stanley (TOMTC) is organizing a bike ride August 22, and this will introduce the people to the concept of the trail. Fund raising is an important role for the committee, and Gary said the DNR grants typically look for a 20% match from somewhere else. Burt Township will hopefully raise some of the money from local contributions and foundations. MDOT (Michigan Dept of Transportation) contributions can count as part of this match.

TRAIL ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Gary suggested the committee meet once a quarter and have 1-3 representatives from each group.

Township supervisor or board member

Township Trail Committee chair and vice chair

Burt Township

Maple River Township

Cheboygan City Planning

U of M Biological Station

Mullett Township

Top of Michigan Trail Council (TOMTC)

Tuscarora Township

Emmet City Planning

Munro Township
McKinley Township

In addition, these groups were suggested:

Burt Lake Band
Lake Association's
DNR
MDOT
Friends of North Central State Trail

These groups should be kept informed by mailings or e-mail.

Legislators are very important to keep informed. Also, group newsletters and newspapers should be informed of updates. It was decided to meet every quarter and the different groups will share the responsibility of organizing each meeting. Steve Schnell (Cheboygan Community Development Director) has volunteered to organize the next meeting, which will be August 14.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BIOLOGICAL STATION

Karie Slavik, Associate Director, said the Biological Station supports the trail but they cannot be a destination on the trail because of lack of facilities. They think using Hogsback Road is a good choice for the route. Hogsback is a seasonal, county road running through U of M property from between E. Burt Lake Rd. and W. Burt Lake Rd, across the North end of Burt Lake. One advantage to using this road is it will keep costs down as only minor improvements are needed. Those not wanting to use the Hogsback Road could use Riggsville Road as an alternative route. Signs could be put up with a description of each route indicating the terrain of the trail.

EMMET COUNTY

Nancy Salar of Emmet County said they are willing to support the trail and would like to see it as a connector trail but not sure at this time of the route. She would like to see other options, besides Brutus Road, be considered for the Trail. Her comments were with regard to the portion of the Trail in Emmet County.

MULLETT TOWNSHIP

Dennis Dombroski, of Mullett Township discussed the possibilities of the trail running from Mail Route Road across I-75 into Topinabee and onto Eagles Nest Road. To cross I-75, a structure could be built on the bridge for walkers and bikers. MDOT may be of help with this bridge. Gary suggested leaving the dotted lines on the map of Mullett Lake Township until issues are worked out. It was mentioned that in an earlier meeting Emily Meyerson said that sometimes trails utilize an overpass, with proper signage, until a bike/pedestrian structure can be added.

BURT TOWNSHIP

Burt Township will meet May 20. Easements, funding for the Engineering study, general funding and submitting the application to the DNR by April 1, 2010 will be discussed at the meeting.

COMMENT

Dennis Dombroski said the engineering study should include Mullett Township. Gary will ask the Engineering Company's how much more the cost would be to include this Township.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be August 14, 2009 from 9-11 a.m. Steve Schnell will organize this meeting. The place will be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Hutto, Secretary