

# **Burt Lake Trail Meeting**

October 14, 2009

Committee Present: Gary Street, Ann Baughman, Mac Richardson, Dean Pollard, Kim Kihnke.  
Also attending: Amanda Poynter, Joyce Hutto.

## **Grant Applications**

The National Park Service Assistance Program grant has been given and accepted for their services for 1 year. The Kodak Foundation grant was not received. Gary will make a follow-up call to see if there will be a chance to receive the grant in the future.

## **Web site**

Kim Kihnke would like to put names, address, phone number and a photo of committee members on the Burt Township web site. This will make the public aware of contacts for information if they have questions. Kim Kihnke will send an e-mail to the members asking for the information each member would like to have on the website about themselves.

## **Legislative Contact**

Gary said that either he or Ann would contact Congressman Bart Stupak's office to arrange a meeting, and request a letter of support.

## **Harborinc**

Harborinc is an organization to provide recreation and land use planning. A meeting is planned on October 28 with Danna Widmar to share her experiences with her work on trails.

## **Ambassador contacts**

Connie Vorenkamp reports her ideas of using individuals who are supportive of the trail and can help with getting easements by talking with their neighbors. Those individuals would be a good resource contact for informing and answering questions anyone has about the trail.

Connie suggested the name "Walk and Roll Burt Lake Pathway" or "Stroll and Roll Burt Lake Pathway". These names could possibly be used as slogans.

Hoppie's will allow the trail committee to use their facility for fund raising. A map will be displayed (at Hoppie's) of the proposed trail, and brochures will be made available to hand out. It was suggested to make people in Maple River Township more aware of the trail. Connie Vorenkamp will write a press release for local newspapers about the trail.

## **Meeting with Little Traverse Conservancy**

Gary and Ann with the Conservancy on what is needed to get easements. The Conservancy will work with the committee as a resource for map service, trust fund applications if needed, people to contact and will be of support to help with anything else concerning the trail.

## **C2AE**

Amanda Poynter, C2AE engineer, presented a handout of the summary of the work being done by the engineering firm. Gary suggested an in depth meeting in the near future with Amanda and Larry Fox to go over the details of the engineering work. There are approximately 6 miles of the trail not needing easements. Love Trail, part of the proposed trail, will not be used as a route at this time. The majority of the trail will need easements. This study will identify the placement of the trail path on the property of the owners who will be asked for an easement. A back-up plan is

needed for places where easements will not be given. If the road commission upgrades East or West Burt Lake road, it is suggested they put in a 4 foot shoulder. The general cost of the project was discussed and paved shoulders would be the most economical to build. Gary asked for committee members to read through the concept plan before the next meeting and it will be discussed in detail. Gary has copies of the plan.

The question of liability of easement property owners needs to be addressed. A paragraph of liability is needed in the easement agreement. Gary will meet with Tim MacArthur, Burt Township attorney, about this.

Gary will set up an engineering committee meeting.

### **Fund Raising**

Ann Baughman, Dean Pollard, Mac Richardson and Linda Caverly had a meeting on ideas for fund raising for the trail. A draft was presented and some questions to resolve are:

1. Can checks be written directly to Burt Lake Trail? Gary spoke with Bill Kanine who is the accountant for TOMTC. Bill said that for the purpose of a tax deduction, the check must be made out to TOMTC. TOMTC has a separate account for the Burt Trail and the money is put directly into this account. The public needs to be informed to understand the money will go to Burt Lake Trail.
2. Will donations of easements of monetary value be counted towards the match? MDOT will accept this towards the match. DNR will have to be asked if they will accept the value of the easement for a match.
3. Can hiring a trainer to help solicit donations more effectively in a consistent manner help? Barbara Nelson Jameson will be asked for her opinion.

Some of the ideas for individual donations are House Parties, Raffles, House Garden tours and a golf outing. Township support could come from a millage. There are some cons to this idea as non-voters would not have a say about a millage, but would still have to pay with their taxes. Some people would not want to pay twice; once through a donation and again through taxes. Ann's handout is attached.

### **Trail Easement Team**

Ideas generated by the easement team are to insert a trail update with tax statements, progress reports with C2AE, publicity on the website, and a photograph enhanced picture of a parcel of land of what the trail would look like. Gary Street's notes from the easement team meeting are attached.

There was discussion regarding sources of funding besides the DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund. In particular, funding from MDOT was discussed.

### **Ambassadors**

Easement information packets for supporters of the trail could be made so this network of supporters can inform their friends and others of what is going on.

### **Next meeting**

November 11, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Joyce Hutto, Recording Secretary