

**BURT TOWNSHIP  
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on NOVEMBER 22, 2021 at 7:06 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

**ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Mike Goerke, Brett Lindgren, Katie Parker, David Jacalone and Paul Janness at the hall. Public attending: Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary. On the conference call trail committee members: Gary Sreet, Margie Reh, Dennis Dombroski, and public Harold Koviak.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Hodulik

**AGENDA:** No additions. Motion to accept agenda by Katie Parker, second by Paul Janness. Motion approved.

**MINUTES: October 25, 2021**

**MOTION:** Moved by Brett Lindgren to approve the October 25, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Mike Gorke. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE:**

Spierling Trucking and Excavating completed the project this month to divert the water/sand run off after heavy rains from the south side, running east to west along Riggsville Road and dumping the sand onto the trail just west of the Gorge entrance. An invoice for \$2,300 has been received. A Hodulik phone conversation with Don Tracey, Munro Township trustee, resulted in asking for \$1,000 to assist with paying for this Gorge project cost. Hodulik, on the advice of Tracey, followed this up with an email to the Munro Board regarding the project which is located in Munro Township. The winter and spring weather will be a good test as to the success of this project.

The bike rack at the Gorge has been unchained and put in storage by UM staff.

**PHASE III.** This 1.4 miles of winding trail mostly through the U of M Biological Station and 4 property owners was completed in October.. A final review of the trail was held November 1 at 1 PM at the intersection of East Burt Lake Road and Birchwood Rd. Concerns discussed included the need for additional signs (NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON TRAIL) at Roberts Rd and the trail end at the EBLR/Birchwood intersection, a discussion of the additional 700 feet of fence (stations 50-57), as well as the erosion that may occur along the Pasney curve, and the need for additional stone for Crary's driveway. The signs will be installed in the spring by the trail committee. Additional stone was added to Crary's driveway (J & N Const). Any additional fence requirements will be reviewed next fall by the trail committee after using the trail for a season. The Pasney curve will be observed in the spring for any possible erosion.

**GRANT POSSIBILITIES:** On hold as Katie Parker needs a project to identify the reason for additional funds. There was committee agreement with this approach.

**TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE ROAD IN MULLETT AND BURT TOWNSHIPS (PHASE VI):** Signage has been ordered to be erected at the corner of Mullett-Burt Road and Topinabee Mail Route Road to give direction for bikers to the North Central Trail in Topinabee. Mike Goerke stated that the Mullett Township Recreation Plan (led by David Jacalone), has been completed, approved by the board, and submitted to the state. This will allow the township to apply for recreational grants. Paving the gravel portion of Woodruff St. would most likely be a separate project. If the township would finance the project, then the Cheboygan County Road Commission engineer could also create the plan for adding paved shoulders. The other option would be to hire an engineering firm to create the drawings and cost estimate to complete the project if a grant is applied for from MDOT/TAP.

**TRAIL HEAD POSSIBILITY ON THE EAST SIDE:** A possible land swap of the township land on Crump Road (4.86 acres) for the Corner Store land (.5 acre) has been at a standstill for a few weeks. The appraisals are approximately \$22K for the township land and \$12K for the corner store property. Assessed land values are also being considered. Latest estimate of a start date to demolish the building has been moved back to June 2022.

**SIGNS and STENCIL: GREAT NEWS!!** A special thank you to David Jacalone, who took personal time and made an outstanding bike stencil using ¼ inch Masonite which can be used to paint our own bikes on the trail instead of paying \$200 each! What a wonderful surprise for all of us! Metal signs showing a “bike” and the “To North Central State Trail and To the North Western State Trail” signs have been ordered from Screen Graphic in Indian River. These will be installed in the spring on 4 by 4 wood posts.

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY:** Discussions were led by Margie Reh to plan an event/announcement regarding the trail. Margie stated step one is to define a date, (probably June), coordinated with TOMTC first, and obtain ideas from them as they have done this several times. This would then lead to a budget, invitees, activities (bike ride and/or run), a speaker, and local media (TV and newspapers). Invitees might include DNR, State Rep, Wayne Schmidt, TOMTC, BLPA, local government officials. Gary Street has a banner used when Phase I was completed in 2013 that could be used again.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**DEVELOP A PLAN AND PRIORITIZE:** There are 3 projects to complete yet; paving Phase I, and connecting east to the North Central State Trail and west to the North Western State Trail. Paving a large section of the trail would require some local co-ordination with any West Burt Lake Road improvement done by the county, to take advantage of less cost as all the equipment would be on site. Portions of the Trail Maintenance Fund and the annual Parks and Rec budget could be combined to pave a longer portion of the trail. Gary Street has a meeting in the next 2

weeks with Tammy Garver of the Emmett County Planning Dept. regarding Brutus Road with extended paved shoulders. Brent Shank is leaving Cheboygan County Road Commission as the Manager/Engineer at the end of year to return to Emmet County and is up to date with the needed Brutus Road trail connection. Our township had a great relationship with him and he will be missed. His replacement has not been announced yet.

**TRAIL SPRING PROJECTS/Parks and Rec Budget:** Discussions were held bringing to attention the fact that since for the first time all 5 phases are now complete, we should get estimates for the 2022 budget for blacktopping cost per foot (Spierling), to power sweep all the trail pavement in the spring (Spierling), mow twice the grass on each side of PHASES I, II, III for sure and maybe the Phase IV and V paved shoulders, (Slowinski of Indian River), and possibly blow leaves in the fall on Phase II and III (Reimann). Both Spierling and Slowinski did excellent work last summer. Spierling will continue to be our major contractor after all these years of excellent work. The plan is to have trail volunteers erect the new signs and paint the bike stencils next summer.

**FINANCIAL STATUS:** The Trail Fund at CNB is \$ **31,703.73** as of October 29, 2021. There is also a balance of approximately **\$21,488.00** in our Top of Michigan Trails Council account. The first Huron Engineering invoice, #4461, dated 9/12/21 for \$12,461.75 was paid 10/8/21, check 150, and the second Huron Engineering invoice, #4527, dated 10/11/21 for \$26,782.00 was paid 11/5/21, check 151. Huron Engineering has been paid \$39,243.75 of the \$51,440 original contract. The CNB account balance is now \$4,921.73 plus interest.

**TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND:** Balance October 29, 2021 is **\$102,594.85**.

**NO MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021. CANCELLED**

**MEETING DATES FOR 2022:** All meetings will be at 7 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Jan 24, Feb 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, and Nov 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday), and for Dec 12 (second Monday).

**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 24, 2022, 7 PM at the Burt Township Hall.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Koviak has obtained the next Huron Contract Invoice for \$18,065.25.

**COMMITTEE COMMENT:** David Jacalone rode his bike the entire trail and really enjoyed it. He asked for assistance for the next step for Mullett TS to take. Margie Reh said that depending on the approach taken of grants vs. township money the method would be different. If a grant is even available for road shoulders, then hire an engineering firm to design the construction phase and assist with the grant application. If the township is paying for the paved shoulders use the County Road Commission engineer who may already have the construction plan to implement.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Brett Lindgren made motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul Janness. . Motion passed. **ADJOURNED 8:17 pm.**

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

