

**BURT TOWNSHIP
BURT LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

AUGUST 22, 2022

The Regular meeting of the Burt Township Trail Committee was called to order by Chair Gene Hodulik on August 22, 2022 at 7:10 pm at the Burt Township Hall.

ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Gene Hodulik, Paul Janness, Katie Parker, Margie Reh, Mike Goerke, Gary Street, Brett Lindgren, and Dave Jacalone. Public attending: Harold Koviak and Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Hodulik

AGENDA ADDITIONS: Bees on Northwest section of the trail and make a stencil of person walking.

MINUTES: The May, June, and July Minutes were approved. A motion by Katie Parker, seconded by Brett Lindgren to approve the July Minutes. Motion approved. A motion by Gary Street, seconded by Margie Reh to approve the June minutes. Motion approved. A motion by Mike Goerke, seconded by Brett Lindgren to approve the May minutes. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: Due to another hard rain, another area has washed out about half way along the Phase III East side fence. Spierling has not repaired it yet. Gene Hodulik will follow up with Mike Spierling regarding a possible timeframe to repair it. A discussion should also take place regarding building a blacktop "curb" to force water to drain to the rock formations.

Katie Parker and Scott Haley (UM Bio Station) volunteered Bert Ebers to empty the trash at the Gorge when observed that it is full. A new lid is needed for the trash can.

The Gorge driveway is still a problem when a heavy rain occurs. It washes sand onto the trail at the entrance of the Gorge parking area. There are deep ruts in the entrance driveway. Brett Lindgren suggested using a stone similar as used by the County Road Commission on South Extension Road which has solved a similar problem. Mike Goerke suggested the need to pave the entrance should the stone solution not solve the problem.

Phase I was brined the end of June at a cost of \$1,080, paid from the Parks and Rec Township Fund. The entire trail should be mowed a second time before the end of August by Slowinski Lawn Service of Indian River. Gary Street will contact Slowinski regarding the second mowing. Street also suggested that the trail may need to be "brush hogged" this fall and he will contact the person who has done it in the past as to availability and price.

“Yield” signs and posts need to be installed at the three driveways near the end of Phase III. Gary Street has an extra post to use for this project.

Dave Jacalone volunteered to make a “walker” stencil similar to the bike stencil he made.

Additional bike stencils need to be painted on the paved shoulders on East Burt Lake Road and Mullett-Burt Road. Mike Goerke and Dave Jacalone will meet with Hodulik to locate and paint the stencils, probably after Labor Day.

PHASE III CLOSE OUT: Still not done

NEW BUSINESS

INDIAN RIVER BIATHLON: Jess Miller, founder of the Biathlon has retired after fifteen years. Margie Reh has assisted Jess for several years, and they have given the majority of the net revenues to the Burt Lake Trail. Top of Michigan Trails Council will assume the responsibility of continuing the event.

TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE AND BRUTUS ROAD CONNECTORS: Gene Hodulik obtained county maps of all property owners along Topinabee Mail Route all the way to Topinabee and obtained the right of way footage along TMR in Burt Township from the Cheboygan County Road Commission. The ROW is 40 feet on each side of the road except for two 33 foot segments on the west side of the road near the cemetery and the corner of Mullett-Burt Road and TMR.. This was researched to explore the idea of an off road trail in the road ROW, which would require grants from both MDOT/TAP and the DNR Trust Fund. The additional seven feet width would make a separated trail a possibility.

Gary Street said he would contact Emmet County to obtain mapping of the area going west to Brutus and the RoW.

Discussion questions involved what is the major goal—a route for bikers to the North Central State Trail or for walkers/joggers in the township? So is it Mullet-Burt Rd to Bennet Road which is the biker choice for safety reasons? Is it off road for safety reasons? Is there financial support from the TMR and area residents to support building a trail? How many years will it take to develop it? Is it important to consider TMR to Service Road (has four foot paved shoulders), going south toward Indian River? How do we handle the overpass on I-75? Is the original goal to be a regional connector still valid? .

The September survey to Burt Township residents must have some specific trail questions.

FINANCES: Margie Reh volunteered to contact the DNR Trust Fund grant coordinator to find out our future chances and timeframe for obtaining grants. She also suggested that we could try for another MEDC \$30,000 matching grant. Brining the west side of the trail was \$1,080.00

.Margie Reh stated that the Biathlon was the most financially successful event they have ever held and the donation to the trail fund will be the largest ever given.

FINANCIAL STATUS: There is **\$3,232.87** of Burt lake Trail donations at Top of Michigan Trail Council. The Trail Fund at CNB is **\$ 6,439.55 as of July 31, 2022. A fourth and final invoice will also come from Huron Engineering to complete the project. Check 153, dated May 5, 2022, for \$425.23 was paid.** This was for sixteen 4 by 4 by 8 feet wood posts and five special road spray paint cans to paint stencils, all purchased from the DO IT Center, Indian River.

TOWNSHIP TRAIL MAINTENANCE FUND: Balance July 31, 2022 is **\$112,673.35**. On August 1, 2022 there was a transfer of \$30,125.00 to the Township Parks and Rec Fund to pay Spierling Trucking (invoice #22-258 dated 7/4/2022) for paving on the west side (Phase I). The balance after this payment in August in the Trail Maintenance Fund is **\$82,548.35**.

PHASE III CONSTRUCTION COSTS: To date a total of **\$499,260.54** has been paid to J and N Construction, leaving a balance of **\$8,516.46**, of the **\$507,777.00** Phase III bid unpaid.

MEETING DATES FOR 2022: All meetings will be at 7 pm on the 4th 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 (3rd Monday), and for Dec 12 (second Monday).

NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2022, 7 PM at the Burt Township Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Harold Koviak said a combination of Afton Stone and cement was used to improve the erosion on the hill of Hardwood Road heading down to the lake and it could work at the Gorge before paving it.

COMMITTEE COMMENT: Brett Lindgren added to his comment regarding roadway stone to stop erosion that the stone was larger than Afton stone and may have had cement with it which made the gravel road very hard and stopped erosion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Brett Lindgren made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike Goerke. Motion passed.

ADJOURNED 8:24 pm.

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

