

**BURT TOWNSHIP**  
**Public Hearing for a Non-Motorized Trail**  
**March 4, 2010**

The Public Hearing for a Non-Motorized Trail was called to order by Supervisor Harold Koviak on March 4, 2010 at 1:30 pm at the Burt Township Hall, Cheboygan, Michigan.

Burt Township Board Attendance: Harold Koviak, Shirley Reimann, Art Pillen, Gene Hodulik, Donna McDougall

Absent: none

Burt Township Planning Committee: Gary Street

Guests: Tom Stephanic, Gordon Aittima, Mary Street, Lorraine Ostwald, Shirl Aittama, Marilyn Bonnett, Jim Betancourt, James Larson, Leo Chenevere, Jeff Winegard

Supervisor Koviak opened the Hearing by welcoming guests and explained that is a public meeting to take comments on a proposed non-motorized trail application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for financial assistance. Procedures for the Hearing were distributed. He then proceeded to request comments from the guests.

**Comments on proposed application:**

Mary Street, 10358 Hosta Trail, Brutus, stated she is a full time residents and uses the W. Burt Lake Road corridor for walking and bike riding and also encounters many other pedestrians and kids on the road and that it would be good to have a trail for safety. She has 1000 feet along W. Burt Lake Road and would be happy to give an easement for the trail.

Jim Larson, 4099 E. Burt Lake Road, stated he found out about the trail less than a week ago and noted in minutes that something should be kept quiet and wants to know why.

Supervisor Koviak responded that nothing is to be kept quiet; all meetings have been open to the public and information has been communicated through newspapers, the township newsletter (with tax bill), and on the website.

Jim Betancourt, 5420 E Burt Lake Road, stated he has a problem in that last night's meeting wasn't published and would like more information on meeting dates for the trail.

Marilyn Bonnett, 5460 E Burt Lake Road, stated she is not in favor of the grant application and that taxpayers have not had enough information to support the application.

Tom Stefanic, 5280 E. Burt Lakes Road, stated he opposes the trail going across his land and doesn't want people walking through his front yard.

Lorraine Ostwald, 6659 Mullet Burt Road, said that adding more space to edge of the road would be good way to go rather than in peoples yards.

Marilyn Bonnett asked to amend her statement to say she is opposed to giving an easement on her property.

Supervisor Koviak assured Mrs. Bonnett that no would take her property.

Gary Street, Planning Committee Chair, submitted approximately 35 letters of support for the trail from township residents and another 12 letters from government units, organizations, and from the University of Michigan Biological Station, where the largest percent of the trail would pass through. Gary Street read aloud letters from: Bill and Marla Hoffman, Mac Richardson, and Dave Steenstra in support of the trail.

Jim Betancourt asked how many letters were received opposing the trail. He said he is concerned about the non-motorized trail; how would it be possible to keep snowmobiles off his property.

Art Pillen said letters from Tom Stefanic and Jim Betancourt were received not in support of the trail.

Harold Koviak said snowmobiles will not be allowed on the trail and the Sheriff's Department should be called if it was to become a problem. He also explained that this will be a long process and there is no guarantee that a grant will be approved by the Trust Fund for the trail.

Jeff Winegard – Top of Michigan Trails Council, said his organization has have been fortunate to work with the Burt Lake Trail Committee and submitted a letter of support. Mr. Winegard said he is very much impressed with the level of professionalism and care the committee is taking – being inclusive and taking the right steps

Jim Larson said this trail will be a pass through, should build a highway instead and it will not help tourism or the economy.

No further comments.

Supervisor Koviak thanked the guests for attending and concluded the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Donna McDougall, Clerk