

# BURT LAKE TRAIL MEETING

November 11, 2009

Committee Present: Gary Street, Ann Baughman, Kim Kihnke, Burt Ebbers, Connie Vorenkamp, Dennis Dombroski.

Also Attending: Joyce Hutto

Minutes of October 14, 2009 were accepted.

## **Meeting with Danna Widmar of Harborinc.**

Gary Street and Ann Baughman met with Danna Widmar of Harborinc. Danna has worked on the Wheelway Trail from Petoskey to Harbor Springs. Her suggestions for the Burt Lake Trail committee are to have your facts in order before you start talking with people about the easements. The easement agreement should be ready to sign when you present it. Be prepared and positive with the people. Start with a personal relationship and not send letters as letters could present a negative impact. The person asking the land owner for an easement should match that person's personality.

## **Stupak Support Letter**

A letter of support was received from Representative Bart Stupak. His office has supplied some names of organizations at the Federal Level that may have funds for the trail.

## **Brochure**

The brochure has not been updated. It will be updated when information is received from Amanda Poynter of C2AE pertaining to the trail. Connie Vorenkamp suggested a handbook to be given to landowners when they are asked for easements. The handbook would help to inform and promote ownership of the trail. The landowner handbook would be separate from the brochure and would be more informative. The brochure contains general information. Connie will work on a draft for the handbook.

## **Meeting with Cheboygan County Board**

Gary Street will meet with the Cheboygan County Board on November 24 at 9:30 a.m. to give a presentation on the trail.

## **DNR Application**

Gary said that in terms of just getting started on easements it may be difficult to turn in an application to the DNR by April, 2010. An application can be submitted to M-Dot at any time and this could possibly be ready in June, 2010. The application to DNR could be submitted the following year.

## **Meeting with Barbara Nelson-Jameson**

Gary Street and Ann Baughman met with Barbara Nelson-Jameson (National Park Service). Barbara will do a work plan on project planning. Her suggestions are to keep the County Road Commission informed of progress being made by the trail committee. Be open to giving

payments for easements. Possibly have a fixed amount of so much per foot. Look for an expert on fund raising. Take time and do your homework before asking for easements.

### **Develop Matrix for Construction Sequence**

C2AE has broken the trail into segments. The next step is to identify the important factors and rank them as to how important each is and what needs to be worked on. Dennis Dombrowki stressed the importance of identifying the route and getting the easiest trail from Topinabee to Maple Bay. The other factors discussed are: Safety---this is a high factor to take into account. Visibility---people need to see what is happening. Funding--- need the support of property owners. Easements---number and likelihood of easements. Environment issues. Use potential--- some areas will be used more than others. Gary will list the criteria for individual trail members to rate in order of importance, and will send to C2AE to evaluate.

### **Easement Agreement**

Copies of the easement agreement put together by Tim MacArthur were distributed for comments. Dennis Dombroski said the agreement should be specific as to what is a handicap motorized vehicle.

### **Publicity**

Kim Kihnke needs photographs for the trail web site. No submissions have been received for the logo contest from high schools. Kim will check with NCMC's design department, and Connie will check with Grand Valley to see if they are interested.

### **Newspaper Coverage**

Connie will submit a press release when the engineering study is finished. It was suggested to have an open house on a Saturday to answer questions about the trail.

### **Next Meeting**

Meeting with C2AE, November 19 at 7 p.m.

Meeting with Barbara Nelson-Jameson will be decided after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

No meeting December 9. Next regular meeting: January 13, 2010.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.