

Burt Trail Alliance
December 18, 2009

The meeting of the Burt Lake Trail Alliance was called to order by Chair Gary Street at 9:10 am on December 18, 2009, at the University of Michigan Biological Station, Pellston, Michigan.

Attendance: Gary Street, Dennis Dombroski, Barbara Nelson-Jameson, Emily Meyerson, Mary Campbell, Steve Schnell, Tammy Doernenberg, Bob VandeKopple, Rachel Osborn, Mac Richardson, Donna McDougall

Chair Gary Street opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. He explained the purpose of this meeting was to give an update of the trail and discuss the goals for 2010.

National Park Service grant

Gary introduced Barbara Nelson-Jameson who works for the National Park Service in a technical assistance role for conservation and recreation programs including trails. She said the connecting factor contributed to the selection of the Burt Lake Trail for the grant. She will help with grant applications.

C2AE GIS Trail Map

The engineering study has been completed by C2AE. The GIS map shows that the trail route will extend in Burt Township from Mullett-Burt Road to Hoppies, north on E. Burt Lake Road to the Hogsback Road (undeveloped) or may continue north to the utility corridor near Riggsville Rd., to W. Burt Lake Rd., then south to Mundt Rd., to Maple Bay Campground.

Gary added that the trail will utilize the west side of the road on West Burt Lake Road and the east side of the road on East Burt Lake Road as fewer easements will be required. It will be a crushed limestone trail and a separated trail wherever possible and use the county right-of-way when necessary.

Dennis Dombroski said the trail route in Mullett Township could go south on Topinabee Mail Route Road to Eagles Nest Road into Topinabee. The only negative is that it will cross I-75 where the sun is a nuisance in the morning and evening. This route, however, is less costly than other options such as Mullett Burt Road continuing east over I-75 to S. Extension Road (unpaved road) and then south to Topinabee Mail Route Road. Another option is go east on Mullett Burt Road to Bennett Road (paved road) then south to Topinabee. If all of these roads are developed in the future, it would make a good short loop of the trail on the east side of the lake.

There was concern about the steepness of Topinabee Mail Route Road where it comes down the hill into Topinabee. It was suggested that riders could turn at the top of the hill before the church to Woodruff Street and down into town. Dennis Dombroski said Topinabee needs to be a trail head or support for the trail would be lost.

C2AE Final Report

The report is prepared in segments and costs. The cost will be closer to \$2.2 million and does not include continuation of the trail south to Tuscarora Township.

The trail committee will use the following criteria to rank which sections will be built first:

1. Safety
2. Use potential
3. Etc.

A question was raised about Maple Bay and the possibility of bikers needing to pay for parking as individuals using the boat ramp may be required to do so in the future.

Website

New updates are being added on the burttownship.org website.

Letters of Support

Letters of support for the trail have been received from Bart Stupak, Gary McDowell, and Jason Allen as well as several organizations and the DNR.

2010 Plans

The next meeting of the Burt Trail Alliance will be January 29, 2010, 9:00 am – noon, followed by lunch – location to be determined.

Topics:

1. Funding
2. Easements
3. Publicity

Steve Schnell said the Vision 2020 segment of the Cheboygan Tribune would be a good publicity venue due to the economic development aspect of the trail. Steve will provide the contacts. Emily Meyerson added that the addition of the trail will attract resorters to the area.

As the C2AE report is complete, now is a good time for a press release in the Petoskey News Review, Cheboygan Tribune and Straitsland Resorter. It should go in during January.

Gary Street said that Hoppies restaurant will donate their location for fundraising activities in 2010. They will provide food and drink at cost.

Barbara Nelson-Jameson spoke to the fundraising plan the alliance needs to follow. A chair is needed (name only) and a committee (cabinet). The first part of the fundraising campaign should be a quiet phase until most of the money is raised then open it up for the public phase.

Brochures need to be designed.

Bob VandeKopple suggested adding a parking area on the north end of the trail to include support from Douglas Lake people. Following the meeting he suggested a parking area at the east end of Hogsback Road. The area would be on U of M property.

Trust Fund Grant Application

Easements must be secured before applying for the grant so the application will be made 4/1/2011. Gary Street noted that the township attorney has drafted an easement agreement.

It was suggested to have Tim MacArthur, Jim Conboy and individuals who worked on the Harbor Springs easements get together to demonstrate how to obtain easements from residents. ZBA and PC setback issues and lot coverage issues need to be addressed in the easements.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Donna McDougall