

Minutes: Friends of Blue Star Trail Board Meeting

October 22, 2015 Present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Sonia Hill, Jim Van Buren, Jan Blaising

1. Minutes of 9/24/2015 were approved as distributed.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** The quilt grossed \$440.00. A sum of \$28,000.00 has been transferred to Allegan Community Foundation. Engineering fees in the amount of \$56,000.00 have been paid and net revenue (\$18,000) from the August bike ride has been finalized. All outstanding bills have been paid. John is looking at different types of accounting programs which will give more complete information and enable board to project income and expenses more accurately. Discussion ensued regarding coordination with Allegan Community Foundation and their accounting system. It was decided that we should meet with foundation staff once we decide what we need and what software we need to purchase.
3. **President's Report:** Jeanne noted that the community information session hosted by Grace Gilmore was very successful . Those who attended were enthusiastic about the trailway and expressed their interest in volunteering. Jim Sullivan and Jeanne Van Zoeren met with CHS to discuss contacts with farmers within Allegan County. The purpose is to develop marketing strategies to help small farmers along the trailway. Jeanne will follow up with the Allegan County Farm Bureau and the Blueberry Growers Association.

Jeanne also gave an update re: procurement of easements within Casco Township. While Land Matters has several signed easement agreements for Phase II, others land owners have been hesitant. Discussion and questions followed regarding next steps. It was decided that we should have a meeting with the Allegan County Road Commission staff and our consulting engineers as soon as possible.

Funding for Phase III looks very promising based upon recent email exchanges with MDOT and the DNR. We can expect final answers from MDOT and the DNR Trust Fund no later than mid-January 2016. Jeanne and Clark made a presentation request for \$15,000 from West Michigan Trails and Greenways earlier this month. We should we hear from them also by mid-January 2016.

4. Sunny signed us up for a webinar series focused on fundraising, which offers strategies to reach interested parties. She encouraged all of us to attend each seminar session. Please let her know if you have not received it on your Outlook.

Sunny will organize a meeting to develop the annual campaign letter with the intent of have a final draft letter prior to our next board meeting. Last year's initial annual campaign met with great success.

5. John announced that a winner has not officially been confirmed yet from the property raffle.
6. Jim Van Buren gave an update on the Lakeshore Harvest Ride. Note name change. The Bike Tour steering committee met last week. Among the decisions made was changing the name as noted above. Jim announced that Clark would be chairing the steering committee next year. Also sub-committee chair assignments were made and an organizational chart was approved going forward.
7. Bylaw revisions for the Friends of the Blue Star Trail will be discussed at length at November board meeting and acted upon at the December annual meeting. Board members are encouraged to read them thoughtfully and be prepared with update suggestions. John Adams handed out a guideline on bylaws which he found helpful.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be November 19, 2015 at 4:00 at Casco Township Hall.

Submitted: Jan Blaising

