

Friends of the Blue Star Trail

Minutes: April 21, 2016

Present: Jeanne VanZoeren, John Adams, Jan Blaising

1. Minutes of 3/17/16 reviewed; no action taken due to lack of quorum.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** John presented a Profit and Loss Statement for 2016. A discussion of the budget for 2016 ensued. John was able to project what he expects expenses to be with fees paid to engineering firm, to the Allegan County Community Foundation and to the continuation of the Saugatuck Township portion of the trail. Construction for the north sector of is projected to commence in September 2016.
3. **President's Report:** The city of Allegan Rotary Club has contacted us regarding a second presentation about progress and plans for the Blue Star Trail. This organization would be a good resource in the continuing efforts to get citizens and governmental units throughout Allegan County to work cooperatively to see the completion of not only our trail but of other trailways on the east side of Allegan County. Jeanne is in the process of securing a date in early May to meet with this group.
There also will be a meeting of the (3) local government unit in Saugatuck-Douglas on April 28, 2016 for interested parties to discuss plans for connecting the Blue Star Trail from one government jurisdiction to the next. There has been some interest among a few donors that the our board consider different options for names which promote Lake Michigan and the various orchards, art studios, and wineries in the area. It is acknowledged that many who would use the trail may be more likely to use our trailway is the name include includes the terms, "lakeshore" and "harvest". This is open to further discussion in the months ahead. We plan to get more input from our donors and many volunteers about this potential name change. A major fundraiser will be held at a private home on June 20, 2016. Additional insurance will be necessary to cover this event and has been explored by John Adams. Jeanne will work with party planning committee to obtain the necessary insurance policies.

4. The board and select volunteers will continue to address the need to procure easements in Casco and Ganges Townships.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.
6. Next meeting date is Thursday, May 19 at Casco Township Hall.

Minutes submitted by Jan Blaising