

Friends of the Blue Star Trail: Board meeting Minutes May, 19, 2016

Present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Jan Blaising, Clark Carmichael, Sunny Hill, Jim Van Buren

1. Minutes from board meetings of both March and April, 2016 were approved as presented. A quorum was not present at the April so no action could be taken at the April board meeting.
2. **Treasurer's Report:**
John Adams reported that the June fundraiser is expected to raise \$7,000 to \$8,000 after expenses. Also, an Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) legacy grant of \$5,000.00 has been confirmed as has \$948.00 from an ACCF youth development grant. The April Revenue and Expense report will be emailed to board members once John's computer is operational.
3. Clark Carmichael distributed a printout of the attendees and funds raised from the fundraiser to be held on June 20, 2016 on behalf of the fund raising committee. The maximum number of attendees has almost been reached.
Jeanne asked for discussion about whether there should be any request for donor pledges at the fund raiser. The consensus was that this request not be made at this fund raiser.
4. **President's Report:**
Jeanne shared that final plans for the North Sector of the Saugatuck Township (Phase II) portion of the trail are in process.
Fall 2016 construction is scheduled. Final design plans are to be completed no later than June 17th.

She also noted that engineering plans including the I-196 Exit 36 are underway for the South Sector. The question is whether MDOT will pay for this overpass (estimated to be \$250,000). MDOT owns it.

An MDOT TAP grant already conditionally approved and a DNR Trust Fund application has been filed for this section. Construction in 2017 is planned if

- (a) the Trust fund application is approved and
- (2) sufficient match dollars (\$110,000) are forthcoming.

There has been significant progress on obtaining easements in Casco Township these past weeks.

Jeanne will be updating the City of Allegan Rotary about the trailway on June 9th. Jim Van Buren will be updating the slide presentation accordingly. Continued efforts will be made to apply for grants from area foundations. More volunteer recruits are needed, and in particular an attorney with property expertise.

5. The Lakeshore Harvest Ride scheduled for August 20, 2016. Jim Van Buren noted that the website is up and running. He will post minutes and information re: bike ride.
6. Sunny Hill shared information re: the July 22, 2016 fundraiser that will be hosted at Fenn Valley Winery. Michigan Trails and Greenways is the sponsor. She asked for help with a hand-out for the upcoming Glenn Pancake Breakfast this coming week-end. Jim VB will draft one for her review.
7. Jim VB reported that the website is up to date and getting some traffic. We are also on Facebook, but that site does not get much attention at this time
8. It was moved and approved to discontinue annual memberships as those parties are already supporters who continue to participate and donate. The By-Laws will be updated accordingly by removing the existing amendment.
9. The name of the trail was discussed extensively as it does not connote the proximity to the lakeshore. JVZ and other able board members will discuss this with Jim Sullivan.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Submitted by Jan Blaising....next meeting to be held on June 16, 2016.