

Friends of the Blue Star Trail

Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2013

Board Members Present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, Jim Van Buren, David Dobreff, Carol Lenaway, John Adams, Julie Werkema

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 3, 2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: John Adams presented year end statement and current financial report. He is utilizing a new design format for the cash flow statement and any suggestions, comments are appreciated. Reports were approved.

President's Report: Jeanne Van Zoeren reported on the CMAQ grant which was approved for \$355,000. We will need to raise local match, engineering fees and easements. We need to make a strong argument for the funds to be allocated in 2014 rather than 2015 or 2016. This would potentially take the trail from Baseline Rd. to Beverly Shores. This actual trail length will be dependent on a number of variables such storm sewers, bridges, retainer walls, etc.

The City of South Haven is allocating a large amount of money for capital improvements. The City plans to include a bike path from Phoenix to Baseline Road.

The South Haven Community Foundation has granted \$500 toward the bike tour. We now have the quilt donated by Lisa Krupiarz. It is beautiful and really highlights South Haven. We need to work on the best ways to show it for marketing.

We have had members do presentations at the South Haven Rotary, Saugatuck Rotary and will be doing one for the South Haven Beta Sorority. Jeanne will be making a presentation to the Saugatuck Township Trustees. They would like to extend their trail along Blue Star Highway to the Saugatuck-Douglas bridge ASAP.

Jeanne also met with Dr. Herrera, Superintendent of South Haven public schools. The schools had a feasibility study prepared regarding Safe Schools by Wayne

State University. This included the trail and Dr. Herrera has moved the trail to the front of his schedule and would like to partner with FOTBST. Two of the South Haven schools will be on the trail route. Dr. Herrera is also excited about working with Casco Township on the educational opportunities of the new Casco Nature Preserve. He has also offered to supply tables, chairs and volunteers for the bike tour and would like to be a sponsor. Jeanne will call him to link up with Jim Van Buren on the bike tour.

Board Member Updates:

Dave Dobreff attended two meetings with the Allegan County Parks Commission, one in January and one in March. The trail was very well received. Dave discussed the linear park concept. He will be attending the next meeting on May 21st which will be a joint meeting with the tourism council. Dave also distributed copies of the Summary of Surveys for bike trails in Cascade/Ada, Berrien, Kalamazoo, Traverse city and White Pines.

John Adams met with Darrel Harden at MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation). The previous application for an enhancement grant was postponed due to historical significance of the Blue Star Highway. John reported that it was a good meeting and there is still potential for the FOTBST to reapply for funding. His next meeting with Darrel, Matt and Sigrid is on May 6th. John supplied handouts on what makes a competitive grant and discussed the importance of Section 106 which is utilized to identify historical sites that could be potentially impacted. He also discussed the need to create a leadership group from the City of South Haven, Casco Township and MDOT. The minimum match for an MDOT grant is 20%. Jeanne noted that Sun 'n Sand has applied to be a historic site and were also very supportive of the trail.

Jim Van Buren – The bike tour committee met today. They had 500 brochures printed and are currently working to identify sponsors. They will be developing a package in the next few days for sponsors. John will assemble a list and send it out to the Board. Jim also discussed the quilt and felt it should be used as a fundraising tool for the FOTBST and not for the bike tour. The next bike tour meeting is scheduled for 5/14/13.

Old Business: Special Projects and Endowment Fund contracts: The Allegan County Community Foundation will not amend the contract for the fee structure.

Jeanne introduced Susan Trabuchi, a South Haven resident who is very experienced in communication and fundraising. She is interested in helping us with the project.

Feasibility Study:

Nancy Owen introduced Vicky Kettner and Colleen McBride from the Owen Group.

Nancy requested that the feasibility study be reviewed in two separate meetings. Today's meeting focused on the contents of the study itself. A summary of the 58 interviews she personally conducted was presented. The agenda for the second meeting, scheduled for **May 8 at 4:30 PM**, will review the standard of giving, the proposed funding program and the anticipated budget.

Next Regular Meeting Date: May 16, 2013, 4:30pm – Casco Township Hall

Meeting Adjourned.