

Encourage council to support trail

The Commercial Record

June 27, 2019

To the editor:

My family and I have been property owners and joyous visitors to Saugatuck since 1951. How we love it! There have been changes ... so many changes, but with those come new opportunities and new horizons.

I have been a cyclist for more than 40 years and have so enjoyed the biking- walking-hiking paths been built in the area during recent years. I am a road biker, but as the years go by, I find I am increasingly comfortable on a path.

I ride south to South Haven and north as far as Grand Haven and am excited to find so much is being connected with paths and trails ... and more each year!

I stop along the way to eat, to admire the towns and villages and enjoy waving and chatting with the many people — families, hikers, other cyclists — I meet along the trail. I have traveled back by car several times with my husband to eat or shop at one of my previous stops along the trail.

I find it difficult to understand why Saugatuck City Council is delaying the decision on completing an important link for our two cities as well as the west coast of Michigan. It is a .4-mile stretch that would be funded by Friends of the Blue Star Trail and grants, not the city, for initial construction and maintenance.

Though it has a life expectancy of 20 to 50 years, to fund long-term replacement costs it would seem the city council would plan ahead and budget for such occurrences. It will be an important step in a continuous, safe, recreational route along the west coast of Michigan.

I encourage citizens of Saugatuck to show support for this grass roots effort by Friends of the Blue Star Trail to promote a healthy lifestyle, safety, economic health and good will. Please insist that the city council move forward to vote to fill the Saugatuck gap on the Blue Star Trail with one of the options presented.

Pat Gifford

Saugatuck