

Trail Friends have met city concerns

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To the editor,

I write to express my support for The Blue Star Trail, and frustration with the City Council of Saugatuck for blocking its progress. I now live in Douglas but have many friends in the city and regularly patronize its establishments.

Years ago, we rode great distances. We had to drive to Holland to catch the trails up there. My husband and I liked to ride along the lakefront and over the bridge to Saugatuck (on the sidewalk), but it was dangerous on Center Street and once we reached Lake Street and into downtown.

When I later lived in Milwaukee, which has a fabulous system of trails, my family and I rode our bikes all the time for transportation and recreation. While I may not ride now at 83, my very large family does and would love to have the proposed Blue Star Trail for a safe place to ride.

Non-motorized trails like this one are also environmentally friendly in that they allow people to get to school, a friend's house or downtown but leave their cars at home. This is one of the reasons that the state legislature and the other communities along the Blue Star route support non-motorized trails, and the federal government has set aside money to build them.

Of course, the council should consider issues of safety, cost and aesthetics as well as all the benefits of the Trail.

Based on the meetings I have attended and my discussions with the Friends of the Trail, I believe the Friends have bent over backwards to address those stated concerns of the council.

Saugatuck Township built the first section of the Trail with the understanding that the city would continue to be part of it; instead the City has left us with what some call the "trail to nowhere." After two years and multiple proposals, it's time for the council to join with its neighbors to become part of the solution, and not the ones to kill the Trail.

Dawn Schumann

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