

FRIENDS OF THE BLUE STAR TRAIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 7, 2018

PRESENT: John Adams, Richard Donovan, Jack Eisinger, Laura Jacobs, Dan Keller (late), Sunny Hill, Jeanne VanZoeren

ABSENT: John Ludlow

ALSO PRESENT (by phone): Tim Stewart

John Adams explained that the purpose of the meeting is to update our schedule and sequencing of building sections of the Trail. Among other reasons, MDOT staff has requested a current “Master Plan” for the project in support of our proposed grant applications. Jeanne has started to draft such a plan and has received comments from MDOT on the first draft.

1. Saugatuck City

- a. There was a review of the City Council workshop held last night, since that has a major impact on the future sequence of construction. The consensus of the Council seemed to be to preserve the center lane, focus on the Trail going down the east side with no delineator posts, and have a crossing at Allegan St. with a traffic light. F&V is now going to estimate the cost of an east side route, including whether a boardwalk or retaining wall will be necessary.
- b. Tim Stewart confirmed that his firm has not yet worked up an engineering plan for the section north of the bridge. He deferred to a traffic engineer as to the need for a light at Lake St., and said that the City has the authority to decide whether to install a light there while the County has authority whether to do so at Old Allegan Road.
- c. Sunny mentioned the possibility of routing the Trail under the south side of the bridge, thereby obviating the need for users to cross Blue Star Highway twice. [F&V subsequently opined that such a route would not work.]
- d. Jeanne raised whether the time has come to insist that the City Council issue before March 1 another letter of support requested by MDOT, in order for the Trail to be included in the next grant cycle for the section of Trail north of the City to Holland Street in the Township. If the City won't issue the letter, Jeanne asked whether we need to consider terminating our efforts to build the Trail. Jeanne questioned whether we can continue to ask donors for money when this request has been pending for two years before the Council. John felt that we are not at that point.
- e. Richard raised whether, given the progress we have made in discussions with the Council and the F&V proposals, the Council might now be willing to give the letter even though we have not finalized all the details of the route. Jeanne confirmed that MDOT would accept a letter of support for the Trail without commitment to any specific route.
- f. Maintenance – there was a discussion about possible arrangements to address the City's concerns regarding ongoing maintenance of the new infrastructure, which is

another hurdle to obtaining the Council's support. It was noted that the City is already maintaining its half of the Kalamazoo River bridge.

2. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to contribute \$2000 to the non-endowed maintenance fund at the Allegan County Community Foundation, per our understanding with ACCF.
3. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to amend our Five-year Plan to incorporate the following sequence of Trail sections to be designed and built:
 - a. 2021 - From North St. north to Holland St. in the Township;
 - b. 2022 - From Old Allegan Rd. south across the bridge to the south end of Douglas (near Wylie Rd.);
 - c. 2023 - The I-196 bridge to Fallen Leaf (Saugatuck Woods);
 - d. 2024 - Fallen Leaf to M-89; and
 - e. 2025 - M-89 to 122d St.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Donovan

Richard E. Donovan, Secretary