

Friends of the Blue Star Trail
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 19, 2018

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

1. Call to Order – 3:05 pm
2. Review and approval of Minutes
 - a. Jack moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting, Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Clark moved, Dan seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 7 special meeting, with slight revision of the comments re maintenance. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Jack distributed and reviewed balance sheet and income statement
 - b. Net income was up almost 170%
 - c. Final payment to the general contractor for the first section in the Township has not yet been approved by Hurley Stewart and MDOT.
 - d. Jack commented that going forward we need to solicit more funds from corporations and foundations. Jeanne noted that that will be much easier once we obtain conditional approval from MDOT for one or more pending grant applications.
 - e. Jack also presented a proposed 5-year planning budget to be included with the Master Plan requested by MDOT.
 - f. Dan move to approve the Treasurer's report, Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Community Outreach Update
 - a. City of Saugatuck Update – John reviewed the state of play regarding the Council and the engineers (F&V). A recent estimate from F&V shows the east side route seemingly favored by Council will cost 60% more than the west side route, though both would meet safety standards. Next step is a meeting with Jon Moxey of F&V in two days to discuss his opinions re the two options.
 - b. Next there was a discussion regarding the possible schedule and deadlines for a DNR grant application for the next section in the Township.
 - c. City of Saugatuck Parks Plan – an update has been proposed by F&V, and a Council workshop scheduled for January 10. DNR requires that a project such as the Trail be included as a priority in the jurisdiction's parks plan to be eligible for a grant. A discussion ensued concerning a strategy for seeking amendment of the City's parks plan to include the Trail. Logically it should be included if the City is going to ultimately approve a route for the Trail.

- d. F&V fees – Richard reviewed Jon Moxey’s request for additional fees for work outside the scope of the original agreement. After discussion, Richard was authorized to negotiate the terms of an additional payment.
5. Annual campaign (Laura/Sunny) – Laura noted that many of the responses so far have been new donors.
6. Conflict of Interest Policy (Richard) – tabled until next meeting.
7. Nondiscrimination Policy (Richard)—Jeanne moved to approve the policy as written, John seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Board Candidates – Jeanne notified the Board that 2019 will be her last year serving on the Board. All thanked her very much for her service. John asked the Board to consider who might replace Jeanne.
10. Next meeting date: April 4, 2018 4:00 PM @ Casco Township Hall [changed to Carmichaels]
11. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Donovan, Secretary

