

Friends of the Blue Star Trail: Board meeting minutes March 17, 2016

Present: Jeanne VanZoeren, John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Jan Blaising

1. Minutes from 12/17/2015 were reviewed, discussed and approved with change in treasurer's report to read "net cash reduction" rather than "loss of".
2. **Treasurer's Report:**
John presented an informal report as there has been no significant change at this time.
3. **Toast to the Blue Star Trail:**
Cathy Carmichael, Co-Chair of the steering committee for the fundraiser on 6-20-2016, gave an update re: plans and preview for this event. There has been strong interest and initial replies are being processed for this event.
4. **President's Report:**
Jeanne detailed a confirmation from Saugatuck Christian Reformed Church granting an easement for development of the north section of the Blue Star Trail. **It was moved and approved by board members to issue the payment for this property.** This amount will be processed by Saugatuck Township acting as the fiduciary agent.

Efforts will continue with Casco Township residents to procure easements for development of the south section of the trail. Discussion was held about how to communicate the benefits of the trail in a positive manner to residents with questions. Safety appears to be a concern and several ideas were generated to address this. A possible meeting with updated information will be held in early summer, 2016.

CMAQ grant funds for the trail have been approved for use at the north sector of Saugatuck Township per information from Tim Stewart. The issue with bridge rebuild is being discussed with MDOT staff. They are intending to do a detailed study of this important overpass issue

5. **Lakeshore Harvest Ride:**
Clark Carmichael updated the board with information re: the Lakeshore Harvest Bike Ride to be held August 20, 2016. The potential of having two starting points and examination of existing routes are being explored. Calls to sponsors and media will begin in April, 2016. Clark plans to attend a meeting of the Lakeshore Harvest Country Group on 4-11-2016.
6. **Other Business:**
Amendments to the by-laws were postponed until the April meeting.
7. **The next meeting** is scheduled for April 21, 2016.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 5: 30 p.m.

Submitted: Jan Blaising