

**Friends of the Blue Star Trail
Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, August 18, 2016**

Present: John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Sonia Hill, Jeanne Van Zoeren and Rosie Burke

Absent: Jim Sullivan

Before the meeting commenced, it was agreed by the Board members present that this would be an abbreviated meeting. This was deemed necessary for Board Members to return to their duties related to the Lakeshore Harvest Ride on Saturday.

Rosie Burke was introduced as a new Board Member.

Review and approval of July Minutes:

The minutes were approved without comment.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report is deferred to the September, 2016 Board Meeting.

President's Report:

Jeanne reported that an application to the Allegan County Community Foundation was submitted for \$1,400. The outlay of this money is restricted to construction. In addition, she reported that she expected that a \$5,000 grant would be forthcoming from the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. This organization's funding emanates from the Meijer Foundation.

Jeanne relayed to the group that the Douglas section of the trailway will commence in Spring, 2017 according to its city manager. A Saugatuck Township public hearing is scheduled for September 7th at 6:00 PM. A workshop session with City of Saugatuck trustees is scheduled for September 8th to review H-S connectivity plans. A Trustee meeting is to follow on September 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM with another scheduled two weeks later on September 24th. A meeting at Douglas has yet to be scheduled.

The purpose of these series of meetings is to garner final approval for preliminary connectivity plans between the two cities and the township. This connectivity approval is needed for the government dollars we are requesting through the Saugatuck Township. H-S staff will draft the plans. Jeanne will provide a map of the project and endorsements of support. Jeanne plans to reach out to the Saugatuck Rotary so she can include their letter of support to present at the Trustee meeting.

Last, Jeanne gave an update on the Casco Township easements. She was happy to report progress continues one by one.

Lakeshore Harvest Ride:

Clark updated the board members on the project plan and enrollment for the Lake Shore Harvest Ride. He reported that the number of riders and the sponsorship increased over last year's numbers. Two-hundred bikers have enrolled and at least another one hundred walk-ins are expected. Clark relayed that we need an inclement weather plan as heavy rain is expected on Saturday.

Sonny asked about the possibility of another property raffle as a generous Blue Star land owner and donor asked if we could accept a donation of land to be raffled during the event on Saturday. The Board discussed the acceptance of this gift and made a decision that a gift of land cannot be accepted by this Board at this time. Sonny will inform the generous donor of the decision.

Miscellaneous:

Donor Categories:

Rosie agreed to draft donor recognition levels for the Board to review.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM and the date of the next meeting was confirmed. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016 4:00 PM at Casco Township Hall.