

**Friends of the Blue Star Trail
Board Meeting Summary
Thursday, December 15, 2016**

1. Friends Present - Jeanne Van Zoeren, Clark Carmichael, John Adams, Sunny Hill and Rosie Burke
2. The October 27, 2016 minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
3. **Treasurer's Report** (John) - Total funds available now stand at \$247,381, most of which (\$225,720) is with the Allegan County Community Foundation (our administrative fiduciary). The balance of \$21,661 is in the operating fund.
4. **President's Report** (Jeanne) - The project budget for the south sector in Saugatuck Township was reviewed. Total estimated construction costs for this section is approximately \$700,000. The goal is to build this section in the spring of 2018. Our goal is to receive matching funds from the DNR Trust of \$200,000 and \$310,000 from MDOT TAP. To obtain these funds, we need to raise \$290,000. See the project budget attachment for details.

As a thank you to our most active volunteers, we had a thank you party in early December. Even with inclement weather, over 30 volunteers attended. Jeanne thanked everyone for all their contributions this past year and updated them on the status of the discussions with Saugatuck's City Council. We are attempting to address the council's concerns about certain sections of the trail in Saugatuck. Jeanne asked those in attendance for their ideas and support in this endeavor. We will be receiving construction bids for the north trail section in Saugatuck Township January 6, 2016.

5. **Lakeshore Harvest Ride (Clark)** - The following are highlights for the 2017 Lakeshore Harvest Ride:
 - The event will now take place on Saturday, September 9 from 9 am to 3 pm.
 - We will minimally eliminate the 100-mile route option as those riders did not support the stops and literally stretched our volunteers' ability to serve them. However, we are going to try to increase ridership of the shorter routes by making them more interesting and fun for the participants.
 - We will not ask any of the farms to be a lunch stop (only a snack and/or water stop). Based on our experience, this was a burden to those farms as it requires additional setup and takedown plus it exposes the farm and our volunteers to weather hazards. As mentioned above, our new main lunch site will be in Glenn at the Glenn Community Center. We will continue to serve lunch at our starting points in Douglas and South Haven. These sites provide more protection from bad weather.
 - We will continue to have our volunteers at all the snack/water stops and for those stops where only water is offered to the riders, we will have a volunteer there if requested by the stop.
 - We will continue our concierge service and pickup purchased items from the stops to deliver them to the ending point of the riders' who made the purchases.
6. **Annual Campaign** (Sonny and Rosie) – Over 450 year-end campaign letters were mailed around Thanksgiving. For those who did not receive a letter, we emailed them a similar message. Reminder post cards for letter recipients will be mailed around Christmas.
7. Next meeting date: March 16, 2017 4:00 PM @ Casco Township Hall.