

**Friends of the Blue Star trail  
Board Meeting  
March 22, 2017**

Friends present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Sunny Hill (phone), Laura Jager, Rosie Burke (phone)

1. The December 15, 2016 Annual Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
2. The December monthly board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
3. The resignation of Jim Sullivan was accepted with regret and gratitude. Friends express gratitude for all of the hard work and great support Jim has accomplished in his Board tenure. Jim will continue with writing, editing, speaking on our behalf, etc..
4. The Board approved Laura Jager as a new FOBST Board member.
5. Treasurer's Report- John Adams distributed several fund reports, which included total funds available, funds available from the ACCF, and current invoices to be paid to Hurley-Stewart.
6. President's Report-Jeanne VanZoeren expressed her gratitude to the BST Annual Campaign Committee. Our donor base expanded significantly under their leadership. A discussion about contribution levels posted on the website and identifying significant donors was assessed at length. Action to be tabled for further discussion at a fundraising strategy meeting.
7. Trail Update: Jeanne announced that construction in Saugatuck Township will commence within the next few days This section will include about 1.1 miles of trail from Blue Star (BS) Highway and North St. south to Old Allegan Road.

Jeanne and John presented a potential construction opportunity for connecting the existing 1.7 miles of trail ending at Holland Street to North Street and BS Highway. Surveying of the area is set to commence next month. Should the surveyors indicate trail could be built on this property, our engineers would take next steps to confirm its viability as a connector section as well as a possible parking lot. Saugatuck Twp would own and maintain this connector.

**Motion: "To move forward with a public hearing in Saugatuck Twp to approve a conceptual plan for a Holland St/ Blue Star trail connector utilizing Elizabeth St, an existing Saugatuck park".**

**Motion approved.**

8. City of Saugatuck Update: The Friends is asking for a letter of support confirming their willingness to collaborate with us in the development of a trailway in their city limits. Several meetings have been held over the last several months. Discussion ensued about ways in which we could continue productive discussions.

Suggestions included:

- take an offensive position.
- inform area residents about our trailway via editorials/phone calls, and an email blast to our supporters.
- create a fact- flowchart.
- chronicle the dates and details of city of Saugatuck and FOBST meetings.
- outline their questions and requests regarding Trail and detail their responses
- follow through in answering questions.
- focus on issues of economic impact, maintenance, liability and recreational connectivity among lake shore communities.

9. Punch list for those present :

Jeanne- Check on CMAQ funds, Reach out to superintendent and Scott Sullivan

Clarke- Prepare Email blast

John- Develop flow Chart

Laura- Visit Land Sharks for possible sponsorship.

10. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM

11. **The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20th at Casco Township Hall.**

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