

**Friends of Blue Star Trail  
Board Meeting  
June 15, 2017**

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

- The May 18 Minutes were approved as distributed.

- Treasurers Report-John Adams

John reported that with the Toast Party donations and ticket sales coming in the revenue is increasing. Expenses should be an estimated \$5,000. Board members approved the payment of expenses. Details and itemization will follow at the July meeting. John received the Invoice from Hurley Stewart for work on present construction. The Invoice will be paid subject to clarification. John will also clarify with the ACRC regarding our current construction obligations.

- Presidents Report- Jeanne Van Zoeren

Jeanne reported on her June 5 meeting with the MDOT and DNR Coordinators at the Allegan County Road Commission. Coordinators stressed high priority of demonstrating connectivity North-South along our trailway. Amy (Grant coordinator) recommended the FOBST Board host a stake holders meeting as soon as possible and that we change the geographical location of an approved motion with the Allegan Board of Commissioners. The stakeholder's meeting will introduce the updated 5-year plan, provide a financial update, and review our maintenance policies and procedures going forward.

Jeanne also explained that the Exit 36 Overpass is federally owned. There are two standards that must be met prior to MDOT funding:

- (a). It must be demonstrated that the third corridor is not needed for motorized traffic. We have met that one.
- (b) It must be demonstrated that the legal owner of the trail (Saugatuck Township), the ACRC, MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) together will decide when the third corridor would be needed for motorized traffic. If so, other options would have to be explored for the trailway occupying the third corridor.

On June 12 she and Clark attended the Grand Region non-motorized meeting in Holland. They were excited to see the high priority ranking the BST was given in the planning document. It was suggested the FOTBST website attach their link to our website.

When reviewing trails merging with overpasses Jeanne explained the overpasses are federally.

- Lakeshore Harvest Bike tour-Clark Carmichael

Clark reported Website is up to-date. Several Bed and Breakfast homes have agreed to offer 10 percent off to participants. Clark continues to find new stops and make new connections with farmers. He will check on Blue Star artisans to make sure they are still planning on presenting at the Glenn Community Center. Fundraising is ongoing.

- Toast Party Report-Sunny Hill

Sunny shared ticket sales update- presently 160 sold. There is a generous \$3000 match that will allow a \$100 feet of trail match challenge. Auction revenue, the challenge match and the Toast sponsors shows the potential to double last year's efforts. The Toast committee continues to do an excellent job in all areas.

Sunny also shared the exciting news that she and Jeanne had met with Tim Morrow (Bronson Hospital Foundation) to request a donation.

- Database meeting report- Clark Carmichael

Clark stated that there was good discussion on streamlining the databases. There was a suggestion to add an identifying column linking new names of donors to the source or event of their gift.

Lee Wittkop (ACCF) reported a mini audit/review would be helpful. A pledge campaign was also recommended encouraging donors to consider pledging a 5-year commitment. A lengthy discussion followed. It was agreed that we need to clarify going forward that donors should make checks be made out to the Allegan Community Foundation with the tag line reading FOTBST Development Fund. This will decrease confusion and make our thank your responses more timely

- Grand Region Map

Special thanks to Jim Van Buren for his excellent contribution in updating the BST map

- Trail Development

**Saugatuck-**

Schedule community information sessions Information

Demonstrate Midpoint plan

Assemble Working group- to work with us to provide better answers that they can understand and support.

**South Haven:** Laura will keep Brian Dissette, City Manager, abreast of trailway development going forward.

**Saugatuck Twps.-** Jeanne will monitor the progress of our North Street connection plan.

**Allegan County-** Jeanne and John will obtain an updated motion from the Allegan County Board of Commissioners.

**MDOT –** Jeanne will organize the BST stakeholder's August meeting

- Policy positions

Operating Account maximum

Thank You acknowledgement

- Next Meeting Date: July 20,2017 4:00pm @ Casco Township Hall

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Jager

