

## Friends of the Blue Star Trail Meeting

July 23, 2015

Present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Jim Van Buren,  
Sunny Hill, Jan Blaising

1. The June 25, 2015 Minutes were approved as distributed.

2. Treasurer's Report – John Adams

John distributed a recap of the FOTBST cash flow fiscal year 2015. Highlights of the recap were as follows:

- Sources of cash: Jim Van Buren reported that pre-registrations for the Lakeshore Harvest Country Bike Tour were on par with past events. The majority of our sponsors have already met their commitments. So far, the Bike Tour has netted about 60% of its goal of raising \$20,000.
- As a result of our year to date expenditures of \$40,354 (almost all resulting from engineering expenses), our current cash balance and total with pledges is \$175,753 and \$224,852, respectively.

3. President's Report – Jeanne

-We reviewed Jeanne's grant application to the Frey Foundation which she will be submitting. As described on their website, The Frey Foundation is based in Grand Rapids and is one of Michigan's larger family foundations. Grants are provided to non-profit organizations, primarily in West and Northern Michigan, for projects to enhance child development, protect natural resources, promote the arts, and build community. The Foundation was established in 1974 and permanently endowed in 1988 from the estate of the late Edward J. and Frances T. Frey. The Frey Foundation awards about of 85 grants each year. Grants range in size from a few hundred dollars up to \$1 million but awards are relative to the size of a project and the portion of private philanthropy.

-Jeanne and John met with South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) to discuss how we might be able to work together to develop the section of connecting trail from Baseline to Wells street. The meeting went well and both SHARA and the Friends group discussed what they need to do to continue the collaborative process. A follow up meeting is scheduled in September.

#### 4. Issues/Concerns/Updates

-Database update: As previously discussed, Clark is responsible for developing a more usable database of our individual, corporate and community supporters and contacts so that we can more effectively and efficiently work with them to reach our goals. His initial efforts have been focused on combining the various files for each contact group created over the past several years, editing the combined file while at the same time adding whatever contact information our Board has on past contacts. So far, the net number of contacts has increased from approximately 400 to 680. While some of the information for the old and “newer” contacts is incomplete, the goal is to continue to add names to the list and when complete, distribute the list to our Board members for their review so they can add to or edit each contact. After this process, the usable contacts will be culled from the list.

-Property Raffle Update (John): Raffle sales were initiated in earnest this past month. Sales were modest but this is often the case in the early stages of this type of fund raising activity. We discussed possible ways we could help spur sales by contacting our supporters, local realtors and the biking community. Initially, we decided to reach out to our past donors to ask them for their assistance since they are familiar with our goals and are our best ambassadors.

-West Michigan Pike Story (Jim Sullivan): As a follow-up to Jim’s well received presentation to the Saugatuck Historical Society, he will be working with them to develop the story using QR coding devices.

5. Revised cost estimates for phase III construction: Jeanne asked for approval of proposed increases in the construction costs for Phase III. The revised total is now \$1,250,000. The \$250,000 increase is a result of the MDOT’s

recommendation for a separate trailway at the I-196 overpass at Exit 36. The revised plans will ensure the safety of non-motorized users. MDOT will pay a significant portion of this section. At the same time, the Friends will pay an added \$62,000 in community match to meet the percent changes required for the additional MDOT assistance. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved to adopt the revised construction match.

6. There being no additional discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

**Next meeting: August 20, 2015, Thursday, 4:00 pm at Casco Township Hall**