

Minutes: Friends of the Blue Star Trail Board Meeting

September 24, 2015

Present: Jeanne Van Zoeren, John Adams, Jan Blaising, Sonia Hill, Jim Van Buren

Minutes from board meeting of 8-20-15 were approved as distributed.

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Summary of bike tour and quilt raffle estimates were given with some expenses and revenues still coming in. John Adams presented a written report detailing revenues. Discussion ensued about the viability of doing a future property raffle. The use and taxes associated with the property winner were discussed with JVZ in communication with the original raffle winner. It was also mentioned that the Allegan Community Foundation may not be able to pay FOBST vendors in the future; however, the payments will be continued until we hear otherwise. The winner of the quilt raffle will be contacted for publicity regarding this event.
2. **President's Report:** JVZ discussed with the board the need to organize volunteers. A suggestion was made to recruit outside the board for a volunteer coordinator who would maintain both the data base and work with volunteers. Presently, Clark maintains the data base. This will be discussed at the next board meeting as well as the need to have an annual meeting in December, 2015. John Adams noted that the by-laws have not been reviewed in some time and that the board needs to consider this in the near future. Sunny noted that the board needs to examine ways to involve more people in the process. Jeanne will include the existing by-laws in the November board meeting attachments.

3. **Hurley-Stewart** is to meet with Saugatuck City Council members to discuss how to proceed with section of the bike trail that is within the city limits as requested by MDOT. A letter will be sent by October 2, 2015 to MDOT and the DNR to request funds for the Saugatuck portion of the trail and to revise the existing applications to address remaining issues. MDOT has recommended that Phase III of the trail be split into two sections: North from Holland Street to the Kalamazoo River bridge and South from the bridge to M-89, the Ganges/Saugatuck Township border. We should expect to hear about funding from MDOT on or around November 1 and from the DNR on or around December 30th.

4. **The Phase II easement process** was discussed at length. Options and opportunities were discussed regarding property owners who are reluctant to grant easements.

5. **Lakeshore Harvest Country Bike Tour** was discussed at length. Jim Van Buren passed out the several data charts showing biker origin, total number of registrants, etc. He noted that the event was well-organized, lunches were well received, and routes were well planned with the exception of Baseline Road according to those who completed the follow up survey. Overall we had more sponsors and more bikers than ever before. He announced that a wrap-up meeting for those involved with this year's Harvest Bike Tour (August, 2015) will be held on 9-25-15. A transition of leadership will be discussed along with the need to have more input from farmers and retailers along the bike routes.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted: J. Blaising