

Thornapple Trail Association Minutes
Middleville Village Hall
April 6, 2015

Present: Tom Ackerman, Jeff and Mary Burpee, Mike Gormley, Cal and Jean Lamoreaux, Rick Moore, Phil and Betty Van Noord

Call to Order: Chairperson Gormley called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. A warm welcome was extended to new attendees, the Burpees with introductions all around.

Approval of agenda: After adding Farmer's Market under New Business, the agenda was approved.

Approval of minutes: **Motion** by J. Lamoreaux, second by P Van Noord to approve March 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Van Noord reported that we have \$3,919.09 in one Money Market account at LMCU and \$5067.16 in the other. As of April 3, 2015, there is a balance of \$4,093.93 in the checking account at HCB. All together that adds up to \$13,085.18.

I. Old Business:

- A. Trail Expansion North:** Groundbreaking ceremony took place April 2 for phase one. Trail Association members had their picture in the *Sun and Times*. Bids on phase 2 MDOT grant will be let in May. The work on the Main Street bridge replacement will begin soon as well, limiting access to the trail head in Middleville.
- B. East Paul Henry:** Gormley is still trying to schedule a meeting with Krupiarz and Maple Valley School to discuss SRTS.
- C. Website:** Still in progress. Ackerman suggested a way to purchase shirts and mugs with logo. C. Lamoreaux requested a link to the Michigan Paddling Council
- D. Barry County Parks and Rec:** Miller reported on a contentious meeting with Charlton Park Board who are opposed to sharing their millage with more parks. County board has appropriated \$25,000 for parks this year.
- E. Maintenance Director's Report:** Miller reported that there has been no mowing yet. He is working on a bid package to contract private mowers, with a possible \$10,000 budget. The temporary "You Are Here" signs have faded and should be replaced. Major repairs were made to the tractor and the deck on the trailer needs to be replaced.
- F. North Country Trail:** Ackerman shared Pio's email informing that Kara Haas from Kellogg Biological Station would be speaking this Wednesday and that he, Ron Slootsman and Jeff Fleming put in 24 volunteer hours clearing trees from the north Middleville section. Ron Slootsman is also a nominee for the Governor's Fitness Council Award.
- G. Fundraising/ Beer Tent:** The Barry-Roubaix beer tent on March 28 raised \$2,500 for the trail association. Gormley warmly thanked everyone for their outstanding volunteer efforts.
- H. Woodpecker Festival:** J. Lamoreaux informed that the festival is upcoming on April 25 from 9:00 am to 4:00pm. There will be seating at a prime viewing location. P. Van Noord will drive the cart. C. Lamoreaux will be the guide. Ron and Gwen Shavalier will also be volunteering.

II. New Business:

- A. TVC Church May 9:** P. Van Noord shared a communication from Thornapple Valley Church offering to work on the trail. After several ideas were put forth, it was decided not to make a request for assistance this year.
- B. C25K:** Ackerman reported on an effort to improve the health of the area by offering a Couch to 5K training session, taking novice runners from inactivity to completing a 5K run. The Thornapple Parks and Recreation Commission is offering this in conjunction with the annual Heritage Days 5K and 10K run being held on August 22 this year. Training begins at the Gazebo in Stagecoach Park on June 16.
- C. Farmer's Market:** **Motion** by P. Van Noord, second by Moore to pay \$50.00 for an ad in the Middleville Farmer's Market flyer. Motion carried.

III. Final Comments J. Lamoreaux reported on a recent meeting about a trail from Plainwell to Kalamazoo and perhaps to Grand Rapids along the old Division Avenue corridor. Meeting was coordinated by the governor's assistant for non-motorized and attended by the various county parks departments. P. Van Noord reported that West Michigan Trails and Greenways is searching for a new director. He also reminded that the Main St. bridge project will begin in early May. He also reported that some trail users are concerned about the wooden bridges as needing repair to their decking. Would our liability insurance be sufficient?

Adjournment: Motion by J. Van Noord, second by P. Van Noord to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm. Next meeting, **May 4, 2015** at 7:00 pm at Middleville Village Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ackerman, TTA secretary