

Thornapple Trail Association Minutes
Middleville Village Hall
May 4, 2015

Present: Tom Ackerman, Mark Fritsema, David Frost, Mike Gormley, Cal and Jean Lamoreaux, Blair Miller, Rick Moore, Phil and Betty Van Noord

Call to Order: Chairperson Gormley called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. A warm welcome was extended to new attendee, David Frost of Charlotte Step by Step, with introductions all around.

Approval of agenda: **Motion** by Moore, Second by P. Van Noord to approve agenda. Motion carried. Audrey Van Strein asked for volunteers on May 16 to help fit bike helmets on children and adults. The Lions and Rotary are giving away free helmets to the community and will be raffling off 40 bikes as well. It will be from 10:00-12:00 in the Middleville Village parking lot. Let her know if you can volunteer.

Approval of minutes: After correcting the amount Barry County has available, Moore's name and the name of the newspaper, **Motion** by J. Lamoreaux, second by P Van Noord to approve April 2015 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Van Noord reported that we have \$8,999.74 in the Money Market accounts at LMCU and there is a balance of \$4,360.93 in the checking account at HCB. All together that adds up to \$13,360.67. We are still owed \$1,800 for Trails Magazine ads. **Motion** by Gormley, second by Ackerman to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

I. Old Business:

A. Trail Expansion North: P. Van Noord stated that grading on the pavilion area has begun. The bridge work replacing the Main St. Bridge originally built in 1929 will begin May 6, closing the westbound lane to traffic. Everyone is invited for a picture on Wednesday at 6:00. Also, Kent County has definite plans to pave the section from Caledonia to 108th this summer.

B. East Paul Henry: Gormley is still trying to schedule a meeting with WMT&G and Maple Valley School to discuss SRTS. Miller thinks the MDOT investigation should be complete soon.

C. Website: Website up and running. Please make suggestions for content or send links or pictures to Fritsema. Dues and membership were discussed with no resolution. It was suggested to put a donate button on the website with a link to it in the Way finding signs.

D. Barry County Parks and Rec: The deck on Moore's trailer has been repaired with funds from the county. They are investigating a possible trailhead near the fairgrounds. He thinks we should continue our own separate liability insurance through the Coleman agency instead of relying on government agencies. He presented his yearly report to the Barry County Commissioners. He will work with Catherine Getty to change and update the way finding signs that correspond to the map.

E. Maintenance Director's Report: Moore reported that Miller has maintained the Nashville to MVHS section since fall for a total of 20 hours and \$54.27 in fuel costs. Moore will mow from Hastings south to county line one time this spring and then turn it over to private contractors. He will also mow the Middleville sections where needed this week at no cost to TTA.

F. North Country Trail: No report

G. Fundraising: Brainstorming session: Do we need better management of our yearly memberships? Can we add ways to donate on the website and signage? Money may be available for trails from the Mackinac Bridge Authority. Could we write a grant to the Kellogg Foundation to repair and maintain the trail? Bicycle safety is a big issue with MDOT.

H. Woodpecker Festival: J. Lamoreaux informed that the festival had 83 attendees, many from the Jackson area and many having never been to Middleville before. Only 5 people rode the golf cart. No final figures, but we likely made \$40.00 in all.

II. New Business:

A. Bridge repair: Ackerman reported that several trail users have communicated a concern about the two small bridges in Middleville. He shared pictures of rotted RR ties that allow the decking to flex down. Can repair be done through volunteer efforts or is a broader governmental approach needed? P. Van Noord will contact Scott Post on ways to repair bridges.

B. Way finding signs: Miller said that many signs have faded and some need to be re-numbered. Ackerman volunteered to investigate signage through Designware or TK Schools.

III. Final Comments: P. Van Noord reported that West Michigan Trails and Greenways have hired a new director. Gormley informed that plans are underway to stage a fall Barry-Robaiux bike race this year.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm. Next meeting, **June 1, 2015** at 7:00 pm at Middleville Village Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ackerman, TTA secretary