

Thornapple Trail Association Minutes
Middleville Village Hall
February 2, 2015

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Gormley called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of agenda: After adding two topics under new business, the agenda was approved.

Approval of minutes: **Motion** by Gormley, second by P. Van Noord to approve. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: P. Van Noord reported a current balance of \$12,995.42 as of February 2, 2015 after payment to *West Michigan Trails* magazine of which three fourths will be reimbursed, between the accounts at Hastings City Bank and Lake Michigan Credit Union. **Motion** by P. Van Noord, second by Moore to accept the January 5 to February 2 report. Motion carried.

I. Old Business:

A. Trail Expansion North: P. Van Noord reported that snag has been resolved regarding an easement on the west side of the Thornapple Township Emergency Services building. Kudos to Duane Weeks and Mike Bremer for solving it. No progress on bat study. Actual bids have not been let. An issue regarding ownership of the section near Garbow Rd. thought to have been owned by Doug Mills has come to light. Investigation suggests that part of that stretch is actually owned by the Bunnings, whose property is up for sale. Van Noord also has information from Kent County Parks Department that the Caledonia to 108th Ave section is on complete hold, although Ackerman noticed Miss Dig flags on the trail today.

B. East Paul Henry: Miller reported that the new plow is taking care of clearing the trail from Vermontville to Nashville very efficiently. He also mentioned a letter he has written to MDOT investigators detailing his concerns about the unwarranted increased scrutiny of Jeff Seavolt due to the questionable billing practices of the Eaton County Road Commission. He requested that MDOT require them to return all escrow funds to the schools.

C. Website: TTA website no longer exists. It ended as of the first of the year. **Motion** by Ackerman, second by C. Lamoreaux to contract with younger Miller to establish new website in concert with Musketawa not to exceed \$1,800. Motion carried. Fritsema will meet with Miller soon to get website back up.

D. Airport: Miller indicated that not only would an entity need FAA approval to purchase the right-of-way, but that it would be at market prices.

E. Barry County Parks and Rec: Miller stated that Rawson was in the process of measuring the actual footage of the trail sections that need to be mowed in Barry County in order to request bids. This would also include the northern Stimson Rd. sections.

F. Maintenance Director's Report: Miller and Moore have 12 hours in preparing and installing the new plow. They presented a \$2,000 receipt for the new light plastic plow which removes snow from the SR2S section very well.

G. North Country Trail: No report.

H. Fundraising: The permit for the beer tent at Barry-Roubaix has been submitted to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Coleman Insurance has assured that our current bond and general liability insurance is sufficient to cover the beer tent. The yearly premium for \$500 is due in April. All members are asked to make requests for additional volunteers. Tent is open from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, but busiest time is noon to 3:00. Options for volunteer parking will be investigated. Ackerman will contact Founders about possible volunteer incentives. J. Lamoreaux will investigate vests at Designwear. P. Van Noord will arrange deposits at HCB.

I. Woodpecker Festival: J. Lamoreaux has submitted a special events request to the village and arranged insurance. We will be very well represented at the Quiet Water Symposium, which seems to be becoming the water and trail symposium.

II. New Business:

A. Middleville Bridge: Construction set to begin in April or May and completed by the opening of school in September. Bridge will only be open eastbound, greatly affecting all downtown businesses and events. MDOT is presenting at village council to address need for a traffic signal at M-37 and Crane Rd. The bridge will have three lanes and three bump outs.

B. Mission Statement: Ackerman presented a draft that the group helped edit. He will distribute a final version to be voted on at our next meeting. The new statement will be included on the website and our donation thank you letters at a minimum. P. Van Noord will draft a revised thank you letter.

C. Final Comments P. Van Noord attended the Home Show and was impressed by demonstrations of trail support from the Middleville Village Council President and a former Nashville Commissioner.

D. Adjournment: Motion by J. Lamoreaux, second by Fritsma to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

III. Next meeting, **March 9, 2015** at 7:00 pm at Middleville Village Hall. **Note meeting date change.**

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Ackerman, TTA secretary

Thornapple Trail Association Mission Statement

The Thornapple Trail Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to turning the old railroad corridor between Grand Rapids and Vermontville into a non-motorized trail as part of the larger state trail system. Our mission is to act as a public advocate in support of the trail. As advocates, the Trail Association works to gain support of government agencies, local businesses, and private citizens in promoting, constructing and maintaining the trail.