

# **BOYNE CITY TO US-31 NON- MOTORIZED TRAIL STEERING COMMITTEE OCTOBER 18, 2010**

## Members present

Marc Seelye	Shirlene Tripp	Yolanda Waldie
Sue Topham	Connie Saltonstall	Shirley Roloff
Mike Sheean	Tom Scott	Steve Agnew
Roger Conaway	Bill Henne	Jim Rudolph

## Agenda

1. Where the committee has been
  2. Final Report
  3. Members Comments
  4. Public Comments
  5. Picture
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1. Where the committee has been. Dean Solomon summarized the activities that he Steering Committed has been through during this process with reviewing the maps and aerial photos for the proposed NMT. Preparing the issues book with the five different approaches. Holding the successful public forum.
  2. Final report. Yolanda Waldie asked if the Michigan Attorney General's office had been asked to give an opinion on the highway use only language that appears on the deeds of property owners along the proposed trail route. She felt that this information was very important and should be moved to the top of the list of items to consider. She also volunteered to help the Park's Committee work with property owners along the proposed route. Mike Sheean stated that the request for an opinion had been submitted six to eight weeks ago to the Attorney General's office by the Top of Michigan Trails Council through Jason Allen's office. The Attorney General opinion is expected in one to two weeks. Steve Agnew feels that we can't proceed without the Attorney General's opinion. Roger Conaway questioned that not having unanimous support of property owners should not be a requirement of the process moving forward. Tom Scott would like the last sentence on page 6 item 3 of the Final Report Draft ("Although broad acceptance from landowners along the route is essential, unanimous support should not be a requirement.") to be removed. A poll of voting members was 7 to 3 in favor of leaving the sentence in the final report. Jim Rudolph would like to see more creative solutions pursued such as right of way donations and used possible donations from the property owners along Birdland Drive and the Oyster Bay as examples. Roger Conaway would

like to see the cities in the county develop a non-motorized trail to connect to the County's non-motorized trail, and to develop non-motorized parks.

The committee voted unanimously to accept the final report with the following change to item 2 on page 6, "the county should explore all creative solutions including finding alternative routes around trouble spots."

Dean Solomon will present the final report to the Parks Committee at Whiting Park on October 25, 2010 at 5:00 PM. All Steering Committee Members, property owners and public are invited. Dean Solomon stated that the email list will be maintained in a continuing effort to educate and inform the public.

3. Committee Members comments. Roger Conaway wanted a copy of the notes being taken at this meeting. Dean Solomon informed him that they will be available on the county's website. Connie Saltonstall informed the committee of two recent articles in the media, one from California and the other from Petoskey telling about the benefits of trails to health and economic issues. Bill Henne voiced his thanks for being asked to serve on the Steering Committee. Mike Sheean offered to let the committee look at a report on the North Central State Recreation Trail. He also stated that this was available at [www.northcentraltrail.org](http://www.northcentraltrail.org). Shirley Roloff thanked all of the members for serving on the committee.
4. Public comment. Jennifer Schafer asked that a copy of the Attorney General opinion be sent to her for distribution to the property owners. Other public comments ranged from opposition because of the feeling that property was being taken from individuals, protected plans would be destroyed, trees would be removed, and that the County Commissioners would not allow property rights to be violated. There was support of the proposed trail because of the benefits to health, safety, and economy.
5. A group picture was taken of the Steering Committee and the meeting was adjourned.

Summary developed by Marc Seelye