

Non Motorized Trail Steering Committee Meeting July 19, 2010

Members present

Steve Agnew

Roger Conaway

Tom Scott

Shirley Roloff

Bill Henne

Jim Rudolph

Connie Saltonstall

Marc Seelye

Yolande Waldie

Mike Sheean

Shirlene Tripp

Agenda

1. Recap the Parks Committee's tasks
2. Review Issue Book
3. August Forum
4. Member Comments
5. Public Comment

Dean Solomon went over the initial charges from the Parks Committee to the NMT Steering Committee.

Connie Saltonstall wanted to know that if part of the NMT was constructed attached to the Road if it was still eligible for grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. John Kurtz said that the trail along m 119 in Emmet County was constructed partly attached to the road and was eligible for the Trust fund Grant. He wasn't sure if the attached portions of the trail were funded by the Trust Fund.

Mrs. Waldie want language added to the issue book stating that it is legal to construct a NMT in the road right of way depending on the legal language for each property deed. She would also like information on who would be responsible for the maintenance costs of the NMT. Dean Solomon added that the costs would most likely be from the County General Fund, donations, and private sources. He gave estimates of between \$2,000 and \$15,000.

Steve Agnew asked about usage rates for the existing Wheelway and a break down of the types of users. Dean stated that a survey on a recent Saturday showed that there were 405 users on the Wheelway.

Tom Scott asked Mike Sheean about the attitude of the "serious bike riders" and if they would use a NMT or continue to use the shoulders of roads. Mike stated that he felt the bike riders would use the NMT as long as there was no major congestion on the trail.

Tom Scott wanted to know if the NMT could be moved to the north side of the BC CX road because he feels that there is more open space on that side. He also felt that property owners would be more in favor of the trail if it were moved to the north side.

Marc Seelye suggested that adding the ideal that a detached trail which could go on either side of the road be added to approach 3. Dean agreed to do this.

Jim Rudolph felt that there may be advantages to moving the NMT to the other side. More that likely engineering and costs would dictate which side of the road it would be constructed. Mike Sheean said that the initial engineers felt that the slope and increased maintenance cost estimates where what placed the emphasis on the south side of the road.

Roger Conaway stated that bike trails are for transportation. He would like a bike park constructed on the old dump property located on the Old Horton Bay road that the city of Boyne owns. Roger still feels that bikers want bike lanes on the shoulders of the road. Dean told him that this issued was covered in approach 2 in the issues book.

Bill Henne wants to know if an official survey of public opinion should be done. Dean feels that the public forum should be held first so that the public is more informed about the issues.

Connie Saltonstall wants to be sure that the trail is labeled a NMT, not a bike path. Dean agreed with this.

On page 6, approach 5, this part of the first sentence should be removed (that any trail at any location would have a negative effect on property owners).

Tom Scott wants there to be a big effort made to publicize the August 16 forum, and also to know the direction that the Parks Committee will take after the forum.

During the forum, each subgroup will work with all 5 approaches.

Ways to inform the public of the forum

1. email
2. direct mail to the owner that requested it
3. media-three local papers
4. property owners letter
5. Steering Committee members can go door to door
6. Notify the city gov.

Steering Committee members need to listen carefully to comments made at the forum and to fairly present each of the 5 approaches, not just their favorite.