

Recreation Planning Committee
September 21, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Rudolph, Chairman; Todd Emmons, Township Board Liaison; Natalie Stopyak, Planning Commission Liaison; Marilyn Waite, Allan Hooper, Jim Guerriero, John Worden, Summit Township Zoning Administrator

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kali Briggs

The meeting was called to order by K. Rudolph, Chairman, on Monday, September 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall Meeting Room.

A motion was made by A. Hooper, supported by J. Guerriero, to approve as written the May 18, 2009 minutes of the Recreation Planning Committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

1. McDevitt Path to 127 South

With the plans to remove the bridge that goes over 127 at McDevitt to begin in late February 2011, the committee discussed path needs for the area.

A. Hooper asked how the bike lane would be delineated from the path on the bridge.

J. Worden explained the current standards. Since the speed limit on the bridge is less than 45 mph a barrier is not needed between the biker and the motorist.

J. Guerriero asked if a map of the path area that the Township would be responsible for could be made available at the next meeting or sooner.

N. Stopyak questioned the proposed redirection of traffic when the bridge is under construction.

J. Worden suggested a recommendation come from the committee to the Township Board to initiate the engineering for the township part of the project.

K. Rudolph, Chairman, spoke with the Heart of the Lakes Recreation Committee, which includes Napoleon, Columbia and Norvell Townships, and said they are looking forward to and are in favor of this project. This group also met with the Jackson Community Foundation to discuss fundraising options. The meeting stressed the importance of the money that is raised stay in the foundation for future repairs and maintenance of trails and paths.

2. Safe Route to School

The Township has received requests for sidewalks/walkways to Vandercook Lake schools. The Safe Route to School request for funding and the application must be initiated by the school district. Funding for the Safe Route to School program is limited to one mile from any school, and funding is only available to public schools. Unfortunately, Vandercook Lake has not initiated the process at this time.

J. Worden suggested Kali Briggs, a teacher for Vandercook Lake, be contacted for her input prior to contacting school administrators.

K. Rudolph, Chairman, questioned if other schools in the area, specifically Paragon School, have had Safe Routes to School requests.

J. Worden stated the Township had received requests for routes to Paragon School from citizens in the Robinson Road area.

A. Hooper suggests that when the Township receives phone calls on Safe Route to Schools that the calls should be forwarded to the schools.

J. Guerriero suggested the Township supervisor talk with the school superintendent about the Safe Route to School process.

T. Emmons supported the suggestion made by J. Guerriero.

4. Property off from the Falling Waters Trail:

Discussion was held on the one hundred twenty five acres of property, owned by the Township that has about eight acres, in the middle of it, that would make a nice addition to the current trail system. The area is scenic and is covered with hard woods but the only way to get to it is through private property. Access is complicated because of the wetlands areas that surround it. Discussion on a possible boardwalk, corporate neighboring with Consumers Energy took place.

5. Any Other Business:

A. Hooper mentioned he has observed some vegetation growing in the path between the trail head parking area and Horton.

J. Worden stated the area had been capped twice, but it is currently owned and maintained by the County Parks.

6. Public Comment

John and Jo Febly of 232 pats Way, are not in favor of the boardwalk and will be calling the property owner in the morning to give him a heads up on what the Township may be planning. The condominium community they are part of will also not be in favor of any boardwalk plans. Additionally, discussion took place on the Weatherwax and Horton intersection traffic safety concerns.

N. Stopyak suggested calling Ken Straub at the Road Commission with the safety concerns.

The meeting was adjourned by K. Rudolph, Chairman at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hubbell, Recording Secretary