

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
Informational Meeting

Trails (2nd Meeting)
August 14, 2014

3:00 p.m.
Yankee Springs Fire Station
1425 S. Payne Lake Rd., Wayland, Michigan 49348

MINUTES

FINAL MINUTES
Approved Sept 11, 2014

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YST 2ndInfo. Meeting on Trails
8/14/14

Meeting began at 3:00 PM

Those in attendance:

Roger Rottschafer, Mark Englerth (YS Board of Trustees)

Marta DesJardin- DNR

Mark Dionise, MDOT, P.E., Manager, Transportation Center, Marshall, MI

Steve Stepek, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Services

Mick Barney, Barry County Planning & Zoning

Absent: Valerie Byrnes, Andrew Jevicks (Both absences with notice)

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Beginning of Discussion with
Marta DesJardin of the DNR

Discussion began with Marta DesJardin, of the DNR – Marta explained that Andrew Jevicks of the YS Park could not be in attendance due to a family obligation. Andrew had met with a Park Planner as he had previously indicated. Andrew mentioned the subject of a trail around Gun Lake. Everyone at the (park planning) meeting thought it was a good idea, and they were behind it. It was noted that when you cross state land there could be obstacles. DesJardin commented that during the new management plan process, there will be an opportunity for state co-workers to be asked for their input and ideas and it's recommended that the township starts the initiation of a plan. For the state to do anything, you have to present the plan of action which says, "this is what we want to do, this is how we're going to do it, and this is the time frame of when we are going to do it in." M. DesJardin continued that if it's done all at once or in phases, they just have to have something to present to the planners as part of the management plan and to incorporate when they put it out there to the public as to "this is what we're going to do." It should have the proposed trail location, how it can be accomplished, along with any obstacles foreseen along the way. It was also suggested by the planners that the group will become a "friends of....." group. M. DesJardin brought a "Tool Kit" for becoming the friends of the state park. This tool kit gets you in the works as a friends group. It gives you a lot more consideration for doing things on state land. It also opens up a funding pot. There is specific funding for "friends group" projects. There are a lot of different resources out there, grant monies, and "pots" that are already out there and can be available. Also, M. DesJardin commented that as far as going to state land, there's a "trail change request" that the district supervisor came up with, that can be outlined and used as part of the YS Twp. presentation as well to say "this is how we're going to do it." DesJardin mentioned a trail at one time from the Gun Lake State Park entrance across the road and followed all the way down to what is now, Sandy's and Sam's Gourmet Foods".

DesJardin commented that this is an off road trail that could possibly be incorporated. DesJardin also mentioned the "Stapish" Trail or the old off road snowmobile trail which presently goes from the campground and comes off just past the curves and comes out near the Sand Bar. DesJardin commented that these trails could be cleared and incorporated into the trail plan.

M. Englerth commented that he wasn't sure who would become the "friends" group. Englerth spoke of the township committing some funds, but struggling yet for a business plan of what is to be done.

M. DesJardin commented that the access trail has to be part of the plan. DesJardin mentioned the Stapish Trail which is still existing and still used as a snowmobile trail.

Steve Stepek mentioned the issue of presenting a combined usage trail in view of a funding perspective.

DesJardin commented that the state park's trails would be "their" trails. Anything you'd (friends group or township) be willing to adopt and maintain or develop would be done through this plan. The parks would probably retain the Chief Noonday trail, but that can be a portion. "Our trail would connect to your trail," added DesJardin.

Stepek commented that because of the multiple use, some funding pots would say, "If you are allowing snowmobiles on it, that means the recreational user in the winter time isn't going to want to ski on it." Stepek mentioned this because a funder may see things this way.

Englerth commented on the primary piece or the big link would be from BP to the Shell station. Englerth believes that once this is accomplished the rest of the project is more than achievable. Englerth commented that he would think that the path would be plowed and be a walkable trail in the winter as well.

Barney was wondering if the trail would be for a walkable or bicycle paved trail.

Englerth commented that the project hasn't been defined, that it is in the incubator stages. Englerth feels that it has to be a paved trail from the BP to Shell. A reason being that if the township has to take care of it, it would be easier to have it paved for maintenance purposes. It would be easier than putting woodchips or gravel down every two years.

Barney commented that the YS State Park Trail could connect into the possible future paved trail.

DesJardin commented that they have trails that say "No Bikes", but those signs are not followed.

Mark Dionise commented that MDOT has jurisdiction on M-179. He commented that they have 66'. Dionise spoke of "clear zone". Rottschafer asked about rules for clear zones. Dionise commented that there are guides for clear zones based on the geometrics in the road, the curvature and speed limit on the road. Drainage was an issue, as well as, the assumption of the road sitting in the middle of the right-of-way. It was mentioned that possibly 17' was on the side of the road lanes as part of MDOT's right-of-way.

Steve Stepek commented that if the trail is paved, you have to accommodate drainage. For federal funding the standard paved trail is 14' wide with 10' paved and 2' on each side.

Mark Englerth commented that property would have to be acquired. M. Dionise from MDOT agreed.

M. Dionise commented that MDOT would be willing to be a part of the solution, but the trail along M-179 between BP and Shell wouldn't work without acquiring property.

M. Englerth commented from a public safety standpoint, Chief Noonday is our biggest threat from where pedestrians can come through our community safely.

Mick Barney commented on county roads on the Orangeville side, vehicle traffic is 11 foot and some cases 0' (shoulder). Barney has been looking more at Marsh, Wildwood, and Patterson. Discussion occurred regarding parts of the trail and a trail all around Gun Lake.

S. Stepek commented that things that he would need (for KATS to work on) would be:

1) **A rec plan-** the current one, just a copy. Something KATS can help with future funding by doing the update on the rec plan. Anything more than a rec plan update, is really out of KATS's scope and this type of work will have to go to an engineering firm. By "rec plan", Stepek commented that it would be the standard municipal recreation plan that DNR requires for outside funding. If it is a minor update, the cost will be very minor. Rottschafer asked about the update process. Stepek commented that the update goes through a process and the DNR is pretty set on their public involvement going through all those meetings and that's the process.

M. Englerth mentioned that Orangeville has a park committee and maybe (M. Barney) should talk to them about a linear park.

Stepek commented that you want to keep people confined somewhat, rather than crossing the road, for safety reasons.

M. Englerth commented that an \$80,000 project can turn into a \$280,000 project with engineering costs involved.

Stepek commented that the nice thing about applying for DNR funds, engineering is an eligible cost for DNR funds. MDOT funds – engineering is NOT an eligible cost for the transportation (alternate? program).

M. Englerth asked how demanding would MDOT be on the engineering end of it?

M. Dionise commented that MDOT could "review" the design for the trail, but would not be able to design it for the township.

Rottschafer asked about Ottawa County's "Mega Miles" engineers.

Stepek commented that he isn't "plugging" anyone, but mentioned "Prein & Newhof" as having experience with these type of projects.

Rottschafer commented that the next step would be to get someone like Prein & Newhof to come down here and see what we are doing, what's are tripping stones, etc. Maybe getting a rough per foot price and do a walk through.

M. Barney commented that when he worked with Brad (Lamberg), they kind of estimated \$130,000 per mile for an extended shoulder. That can be multiplied by 15 to get the project value. There were some places where they could look at the trail that existed and wouldn't have to do that. Barney feels that M-179 is going to be totally different than he thought.

Steppek commented on the differences of dealing with MDOT roads and county roads and the standards involved, and right-of-ways.

Englerth commented that sooner or later, MDOT will be encroached upon.

Steppek gave the name of Dan Lewis of Prein & Newhof, out of Kalamazoo.

Rottschafer commented that the committee needs to have an idea of the project before bringing it to the township.

Englerth commented on getting one or two firms here. Englerth mentioned the small amount of money set aside by the township board (in the budget) to at least go down this path. After meeting with a firm, they will give you an idea of what they are looking at and thinking. The next step would be maybe a low level preliminary drawing, and then get a cost per foot or half mile or whatever and then look how we would long term fund it. It might be millage, grants or a couple of those things. Englerth commented to the committee that when this (previously mentioned process) is done, we will come back and share with the committee what has been done.

Englerth requested M. DesJardin to contact Rose at County mapping to get trail data to her (GPS info/data on state park area).

A meeting date was not set. M. Englerth would like to do the homework and have something to show at the next meeting and "roll up our sleeves" to.

In the meantime, Englerth will get a hold of Ben Geiger, from the state and see so the Trails group or committee will specifically know what component he's talking about from the state. And if we are already duplicating it, that's fine.

Steppek commented that he'd give Dan (Lewis) a call. Rottschafer will possibly connect with D. Lewis, of Prein & Newhof.

The meeting came to a close at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deb Mousseau

Recording Secretary 8/14/14

Date: _____

Approved: _____

Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

Final Approval: Sept 11, 2014