

Courtland Township Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

8/23/11

Present: Brent Boncher, Mike Krygier, Colleen Brown, Sally Eggenberger, Carol Shaw, Chuck Porter;;p

I. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

II. Review of Agenda

III. Public Comment – none

IV. Twp Supervisor's Report

- a. General township funding increase from State: Chuck Porter, Township Supervisor, stated that due to the census increase, Courtland Township would receive approximately an additional \$100,000 per year.
- b. Budget for Parks and Recreation: There was discussion of having a budget for Parks and Recreation. Currently there is \$25,000 in the budget. However, this money does not carry over from year to year.
 - i. There was a talk of creating a rollover fund to save for Parks. Talk included a suggestion of an additional \$50,000 per year into the Parks fund to save for future Parks projects and also as a show of commitment for future grant applications. Chuck Porter stated that this was not possible, as it commits future board members to a project being planned now.
 - ii. How did Cannon Township fund their parks? Cannon Township passed a millage for parks. All agreed that with today's economy, now is not a good time to ask for a millage. Someone asked Chuck to talk to Courtland Township Board about future expenditure and that we may need \$250,000 for matching grants in 2 to 3 years.

Survey Results

Total Surveys: 89				
Question #		Yes	No	No Response
#1	Are you interested in development of recreational trails (like the White Pine Trail) in Courtland Township	65	24	0
#2	Do you think your household would use recreational trails in the township?	62	27	0

*The majority of 'no' responses were concerned about the expenses used for parks during a recession.

V. Publicity/Community Outreach and Public Involvement

- a. Website: Brent Boncher stated his neighbor is working on this. Brent will meet with his neighbor to give her further information.
- b. Public Forum: All agreed October was too early to organize public meeting. Consensus was to postpone this meeting until February, but not later, due to grant deadlines in April.

VI. Road Crossing Report – Sally Eggenberger

- a. Sally and Brent have been working with John Strunk from Kent County Road Commission checking sights of distance.
 - i. 12 Mile and Myers Lake – cannot cross because of Sight of Distance
 - ii. Brent suggested someone call road commission to see if it is a possibility to flatten hill north of 12 Mile on Myers Lake
 - iii. Starting at Wolverine
 - iv. Cross from Wolverine Headquarters to Warehouse
 - v. Warehouse across to Southside of 11 Mile
- b. See attachments for further details.

VII. Route Work Report – Brent Boncher – Brent has met with several landowners to discuss possibility of trail and to see if there is interest.

Possible Route

- 1. Starting at Luton Park, cross to farmhouse
 - a. From farm house go into Rockridge East II common area
 - b. Cut through common area of Rockridge and then head East to cross Myers Lake Road between Russet Vista and 11 Mile Road.

2. Brent talked to residents along potential route halfway between 10 and 11 Mile and potential route along 11 Mile.
 - a. Brower Land Conservancy, name???. To get into land conservancy from 11 Mile, it is mostly swamp. They really want to keep the land undeveloped. They do not want bikes in there. Possibility of bike rack where people could bike on the trails.
 - b. Possibility of going along 11 Mile, using Hessler Drive to get to Myers Lake.
 - c. Possibility of crossing on East side of Stone Crest.
 - d. Possibility of crossing Myers Lake Road by Russet Vista, cutting through Little Brower, going along Loveless Drive (private) or through Walnut Creek Drive was discussed.

Action Items

Chuck Porter

- Talk to Courtland Township Board about future recreational trail expenditure and that we may need \$250,000 for matching grants in 2 to 3 years.
- Get another couple of maps

Brent Boncher

- Meet with neighbor to work on website
- Talk to developer of phase II of StoneCrest
- Talk to Association for StoneCrest – phase I Brent call road commission to see if bump can go off of Myers Lake Road north of 12 Mile
- Brent call road commission to see if bump can go off of Myers Lake Road north of 12 Mile

Sally Eggenberger

- AAA – get highlighter and highlighter eraser and sticky arrows
- Call John Strunk – check SOD on Myers Lake Road North of 12 Mile
- Call to find out where abandoned railway is located.

Mike Krygier

- Mike Krygier, October 18, will attend planning commission meeting to propose future developments allow for recreational trails.
- It was suggested Mike call Bonnie Blackledge at Cannon Township to see what wording Cannon Township used

- Consider talking to owner about possibility of crossing corner of Hessler farm that is for sale

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Monday, 7/18/11

Purpose of Meeting: Bring Sally up to speed on what the Parks Committee has been working on.

Attendees: Brent Boncher, Sally Eggenberger

Discussion at this meeting focused around potential routes of connector trails, contacts Brent has already made, and what should be the committee's next action. Sally has collected names of major developments in Courtland Township with the purpose of seeking out association presidents for communication purposes. Bonus: Brent and Sally had the opportunity to meet with Pete MacGregor, State Representative, and was also on Cannon Township Planning Commission when Cannon Trail was in early planning stages. Pete was also Cannon Township Supervisor when Cannon Trail was completed. Pete has offered to attend a meeting if it would be beneficial.

Follow-up:

Brent:

1. Get studies on crime rates and property values for existing linear parks.
2. Find out who is president of Rock Meadows Association.
3. Set up an appointment with Wolverine and meet them.
4. Consider and make notes on what approach should be when we talk to property owners and Wolverine.
5. Set up meeting with Sally and the Kiech Sisters to discuss the possibility of linear park their properties.
6. Brent has made contact with the new president of the Brower Lake Conservancy. Do we need to set up an appointment?
7. Anticipate questions that property owners will have – positives and negatives

Sally:

1. Send letter to Parks Committee seeking names of people who live in Courtland Township Developments. Find out who are the presidents of these associations.
2. Construct letter to be sent to associations.
3. Email Brent Wednesday evening dates that Sally is able to meet with Brent and the farm owners near Myers Lake Park to discuss possibility of trail crossing their properties.
4. Contact Chuck Porter
 - a. Is Sally on Committee
 - b. Possibility of an email address for Parks Committee
 - c. Parks Committee needs maps with parcel #s for each committee member

Brent and Sally discussed potential routes from Brower Lake Conservancy to Luton Park.

Potential Route – starting at conservancy

- Go north
- Cross 11 Mile
- Skirt Stone Crest neighborhood (who is the contact in Stone Crest?)
- Connect to Myers Lake Park (where?)
- Cross farm near Myers Lake park
- Go through the following Parcels – find out who owns them...
 - 012
 - 016
 - 029
 - 030
 - 1st Common area for Rock Ridge East
 - 001 – just the corner
 - 2nd Common area for Rock Ridge East
 - At this point, trail could cross to Cannon Township, or trail could continue East and Cross at Myers Lake Avenue and 10 Mile Road Intersection

Total Surveys: 212 – these results <u>include</u> surveys from the 8/23/11 meeting minutes				
Question #		Yes	No	No Response
#1	Are you interested in development of recreational trails (like the White Pine Trail) in Courtland Township	152	58	2
#2	Do you think your household would use recreational trails in the township?	154	58	0
#3	Are you interested in additional parks and rec facilities at the township hall park?	77	120	15
#4	No question			
#5	At the township hall park, what amenities would you like to see? Please rank.	Surveys showed if improvements were made at township park, people would like to see, roughly in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathrooms • Playground • Picnic Facilities 		
#6	Since federal and state grants heavily favor funding of trails that connect to other trails or destinations, what would you like to see connected or linked?	In order of preferences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Pine Trail • Myers Lake Park • Cannon Township Trail • Luton Park • Brower Lake Conservancy • Township Park • Other: Porter Hollow 		

Additional Comments from Surveys:

*We don't need any amenities at this time.

*How about just maintaining what we have.

*No more debt or taxes. Taxes will raise township, state or federal or more debt.

*Now is not the time. Won't the trails reduce taxable property area? Who will pay to maintain? If any grant, it should be used to stop the motorcycles going past my house at over 100 mph. It is no wonder the country is deep in debt. We can't afford this.

*State grants – where are they getting the \$\$\$?? 15 trillion in debt and growing.

Courtland Township Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Present: Brent Boncher, Sally Eggenberger, Colleen Brown, Michelle VanHaitsma, Carol Shaw, Tracie Chisolm, Carole Christensen - resident

1. Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.
2. Review of Agenda
3. Public Comment, Carole Christensen, Courtland Twp. Resident has been following minutes online. She is looking for information on parks and recreation. The Courtland Twp. Site is out of date. She would like to see the Parks and Rec site up and running. Interested in what is next step of Township Park development.
4. Township Supervisor's Report – Chuck Porter is in another meeting
5. Publicity/Community Outreach and Public Involvement: Website update, update by Traci Chisolm. Traci brought printouts of Parks and Rec site. The site appears to be very comprehensive and informative.
 - a. What are the benefits to the community of having a trail?
 - b. Review FAQ questions
 - c. Add pictures of Cannon Twp. Trail?
 - d. Who approves the parks and rec site before it goes live? Does the board need to approve, or can Chuck Porter approve?
6. Discussion of Parks/Rec Plan
7. Route Work Report – Brent Boncher continues to contact residents along 11 Mile Road to find out their level of interest.
8. Alternative Routing
 - a. Go along Myers Lake Road, through Russet Vista green space
 - b. Go along north side of 11 Mile Road East of Myers Lake Road
9. Road Commission Meeting Outcome, Brent Boncher met with Tim

- a. Tim Haagsma, Road Commission thought it might be possible to cross on south side of 11 Mile Road at Myers Lake.
- b. Tim also thought it might be possible to take out bump in Myers Lake Road just North of 12 Mile, which may allow enough Sight of Distance to cross at 12 Mile Road.
- c. Hessler Drive, along north side of Little Myers Lake has a 60' right of way.

10.Prein & Newhof did very rough cost estimates

11.Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.

Courtland Township Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

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- c. Hessler Drive, along north side of Little Myers Lake has a 60' right of way.

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11.Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.

Courtland Township Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Present: Brent Boncher, Sally Eggenberger, Chuck Porter, Traci Chisholm (MOD Internet Marketing), Rick Stout (Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering)

I. Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.

II. Review of Agenda

III. Public Comment – none

IV. Discussion with Rick Stout from Fleis & Vendenbrink Engineering regarding Courtland Township Recreational Plan

- a. Compare last recreational plan to proposed 2011–2016 recreational plan
- b. Take into consideration changes in demographics
- c. Parks Committee – preapprove and recommend to board for public hearing. Public must have 30 day notice of public hearing. Record all positive and negative comments at public hearing.

Goal: Make recommendation of recreational plan to board at November meeting.

V. **Public hearing – can be part of township board meeting**

Rick needs:

1. Who is on Recreation committee
2. Goals and Objectives: sidewalks in new developments
3. Section B: Get funds spent on Parks and Rec for last 4 years

VI. **Timeline:**

Recreational plan needs to be approved by board and DNR to be eligible to apply for grants.

1. November, 2011 – recommend plan to board and request approval
2. January, 2012 – Approval by board
3. February, 2012 – Public Meeting – gather input
4. March, 2012 – Apply for grants

VII. **Potential Grant Opportunities:**

- National Resources Trust Fund
- Land and Water Fund
- Passport Program – due May 1
- Boats and Waterways – in conjunction with county
- Michigan Resources Trust Fund
- MDOT Trust Fund Enhancement

Rick Stout commented that the trend is for public gathering areas more so than organized play fields such as baseball and soccer. The trend goes to nicer pavilions, restrooms, grills, walking and biking trails, etc.

VIII. Capital Improvement Schedule – Need to work through priorities of phases of trail development

- White Pine Trail to Myers Lake Park – approximately 3 miles (15,000 feet @ \$40 to \$50/foot) = \$600,000 project
- Connect to Luton Park, depending on location of 1st trail....could be ½ mile to 1 mile.

IX. Traci Chisholm, Web Strategist, MOD Internet Marketing

Website:

- a. Parks and Rec Website vs. Trails Project Website (trail expansion project)
- b. Need to approve Template before design continues
- c. Add to website: specifics... Algoma trail...how much was covered by grants? Cannon Trail cost \$\$\$, how much was grants? How much was from township?
- d. Traci and Chuck will talk to Marilyn Crosby regarding Courtland Township Website.
- e. Parks and Rec tab on website?
- f. On Parks and Rec tab, Courtland Township Trails Project Website?

X. Discussion about expanding recreation committee? Would we get more support??

XI. Supervisor's Report –

- a. new sign at Myers Lake Fire Station, dedication ceremony
- b. Message Center sign coming to Township Hall

Action Items:

- All review parks plan that will be recommended for public hearing. Do this before November Meeting. Focus on Goals starting on page 33.
- Sally: Email Traci Chisolm minutes from August meeting.
- Mike Krygier – go to planning commission next week if possible....sidewalks for future developments
- Chuck Porter – Section B: Get funds spent on Parks and Rec for last 4 years
- Traci Chisholm and Chuck Porter will talk to Marilyn Crosby regarding Courtland Township Website 10/18/11
- Rick Stout and Brent Boncher will meet to go over recreational plan.
- Rick Stout will come to November meeting.

Do we want to have a non-profit organization for people to donate to?

Chuck action item: Call Legal Counsel...Should there be a non-profit involved?

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm.

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Courtland Township Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Present: Brent Boncher, Sally Eggenberger, Chuck Porter

- I. Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.
- II. Review of Agenda
- III. Public Comment - none
- IV. Township Supervisor's Report -
 - a. Sewers go around lake. DPW maintains. Sewer fund is running low. DPW will let Courtland Township get out of contract. Independent contractor will take over and township will reap substantial savings.
- V. Publicity/Community Outreach and Public Involvement: Website update
 - a. Brent talked to Tracie Chisholm. She met with Marilyn Crosby. They will meet with twp. Web site developer. Next meeting we will discuss website development.
- VI. Discussion of Parks/Rec Plan
 - a. Rick Stout not able to attend due to other commitments.
 - b. What changes should be made?
 - c. Motion was made by Brent Boncher to present recreational plan to township board for approval, with updated survey section and also updates made in master copy. Supported by Sally Eggenberger.
- VII. Route Work Report - Brent - Contacts made along 11 Mile with multiple owners.
- VIII. Discussion of Cumulative Results of Survey - Discussed.
- IX. Bridges - Brent found 'used' bridges on the internet.
- X. Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 7 p.m.

Courtland Township Parks Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Present: Brent Boncher, Sally Eggenberger, Chuck Porter, Colleen Brown, Michelle VanHaitsma, Carol Shaw, Tracie Chisolm

1. Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.
2. Review of Agenda
3. Public Comment – Michelle VanHaitsma, 11 Mile Resident
4. Township Supervisor's Report (including engineer hiring and authority to incur costs)
 - a. Chad Sosnowski – Prein & Newhof Engineering
 - Brent, Chuck, and Chad will meet to discuss scope of project. Chad is Courtland Township attorney and has also worked with Cannon Township on their recreational trails.
5. Publicity/Community Outreach and Public Involvement
 - a. Website updates (Tracie Chisolm) - Information will be put on Courtland Twp website. Timeframe: Final site up in January
 - b. Have a place on the website to collect current public input. Use surveys or a general comment section
 - c. Need for 'frequently asked questions' area on website. FAQ questions will address the following areas: snowplowing, insurance, trees, liability, route, snowmobiles, maintenance, crime, effect on property values, horses, rollerblading, skateboards, longboards, width of trail, width of easement, what type of surface, separate trail or a bike lane alongside of road, how much does it cost and where does funding come from. Give concrete examples from Cannon Trail and Algoma Trail.
 - d. Possibly link to other township parks and rec web pages.
 - e. Brent will provide names of grants to Tracie Chisholm.
6. Public Forum Meeting Planning – target date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012

1. Flyers –
 - a. hand deliver to people along proposed routes
 - b. stack of flyers available at the Trading Post 10 Mile and Myers Lake
2. Panel invitation
 - a. Chad Sowsnowski, Engineer
 - b. Dave Hibor, White Pine Trail
 - c. Bonnie Blackledge, Cannon Township
 - d. Michael Young, City Manager
 - e. Chuck Porter, Township Supervisor
 - f. Brent Boncher, Parks and Recreational
 - g. Cedar Springs Parks President
3. Reserve Township Hall
4. Agenda and speakers
5. Presentation planning
6. Scheduling the meeting
7. Technology needs and Maps
8. Other
7. Organization / Planning / To Do list
 - a. List of Households visited and locations (mapping?) and their comments
 - b. Deadlines for Grant Applications
 - c. Meet with Engineer and review site route feasibility
 - d. Continue to meet with landowners
 1. Determine owners of vacant/for sale properties.
 2. Develop list of residents of affected subdivisions and meet with them.
 3. Meet with Wolverine World Wide, City of Rockford, and attend Cannon Township's next parks/rec mtg.
 - e. Contact or meet with West Michigan Trails and Greenways Association again for advising on process
9. Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.