

Board Meeting

April 28, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Zoom meeting



Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm with Board Members Joe Lampen, Dayna McCoy, and Kirk Walter, as well as Members at Large Joel Blease, Tim Boncheck, Randy Knapp, Julia Miller, Brian Timmer, and Alex Wagner.

Determination of Quorum

Approval of January 2020 Minutes: Joe motioned to approve minutes; Alex seconded.

Brief revisit of 2020 Goals & Objectives

- MEMBA structural and succession plan to be developed. Joe put together a plan and will share it with the board, who will then share it with members once the plan is agreed upon.
- 2020 objectives, priorities and board roles. - Joe
 - o Complete Mosquito Creek
 - o Develop new trail opportunities
 - o Maintain existing trails
 - o Grow membership
 - o Build community awareness- i.e. trail etiquette
 - o How do we each help accomplish the goal (from email)
- Branding, communication, and membership
- Access to internal information

Treasurers Report – Joe provided a 2020 year to date report, and a breakdown of Mosquito Creek receipts and expenses by year. The IMBA check is our share of the fall membership drive.

Recommendation of future MEMBA board structure/succession – Joe put together a plan and will share it with the board, who will then share it with members once the plan is agreed upon.

2020 Information Initiative Update

- New logo is being used.
- Joel will set up emails for each board position so members can direct inquiries to specific people as needed, and any change in board membership will allow the transition to be smoother.
- Discussed having a virtual member meeting in May 2020. Potentially have a multiple, smaller meetings broken up by geographic trail area.

IMBA Trail Accelerator Grant Program

- Kirk attended a webinar 4/15/20 and is working with Kerry to secure township support to apply for the grant, since the grant requires 3 government references.
- This grant is more applicable to the Jamestown trail project, not Mosquito Creek.

Mosquito Creek Trail Update

- A \$100,000 donation has been received and is in the bank. The only stipulation with the donation was that Class 1 eBikes be allowed on the trail.
- MEMBA researched studies completed on Class 1 eBikes impact on trail surfaces- studies were positive and showed minimal impact difference from regular trail use. Muskegon County approved the amendment to allow Class 1 eBikes, working on final signatures.

- Trail builder schedule has been pushed back to work limitations from COVID. Phase 3 of the trail was planned to begin this summer, but will now be a little later.
- Working with DEQ and engineering company on bridges. Current design for the West bridge will eat up most of the budget, so we will likely focus on the East bridge for now. Designs have not been submitted to DEQ yet, but involve a 6 ft bridge width. Will consider looking into other common designs that might fit our budget better. Tim suggested looking at the bridges on the Pottawattamie Trail.
- Received a grant from REI for \$3-5k. Money comes from REI membership dues, and surveys they send out about what their members are interested in.
- Alex has been in contact with adjacent landowners about the possibility of expanding the trail more.
- Trail maintenance is doing really well with volunteer commitments. Joel has done a lot of work out there- thanks to him and everyone else!
- Some members have noticed families riding without helmets on the trail. Joel suggested reaching out to Muskegon County Sheriff to see if they have programs to get helmets on kids.
- The change in direction changes each day has been received very well.
- Briefly discussed extending the parking lot since it gets full on a nice day already. More room will be needed if trail expands, and any events are hosted on site. Would expand on the same side of the road to avoid people crossing Maple Island Rd.

Bass River Update

- DNR put a hold on work here because of COVID.
- Directional proposal to DNR. Kirk is organizing meeting with the unit manager (Pat Whalen) to develop MTB proposal here.
- Kirk met with Jarrett Simon and Chuck Mol via Zoom, and sent a proposal to the DEQ. Currently awaiting next steps, which will likely be a public hearing.

Meeting with Ottawa County Parks Dept 3/9/20

- Kirk met with OCPD to introduce MEMBA, our trails, and goals.
- OCPD doesn't see existing parks as a good fit for allowing mountain biking. They may be acquiring new property, where biking might be a better fit.
- Learned the county is moving forward with bi-directional by day at Riley. Thanks to the team who championed this in 2019! OCPD is working on new signage to reflect this.

Riley Trails meeting with county on 3/18/20 at Riley

- Tim Meyer, Greg Gibson, Eric Frifeldt and Kirk Walter in attendance.
- Received approval to build features at reroutes and secure crushed concrete for problem areas. Timing TBD.
- Discussion around increasing signage to include existing trails not on current MTB signed loops.
- Greg has been doing a lot of trail maintenance, and is waiting to hear from Eric at parks dept. if he can block some of the re-routes. Kirk will follow up with Eric to see what we can do now to stop trail re-routing at Riley in general.

Jamestown Township Trail Opportunity

- Located at 32nd Ave and I-96, kitty corner from park-n-ride.
- Joe & Kirk met with Jamestown Twp (via Zoom) right before this board meeting. Introduced them to MEMBA, our trails, and goals. A new trail here could be close to twice the size of Upper Mac, so potentially 10 miles long. Attendees from Hudonsville said they recently sent out a survey to residents, and said mountain bike trails have much interest.
- A Michigan based trail builder is interested in looking at the project.

- Kirk requested a follow up meeting with Kerry and Jamestown Township.

Upper Macatawa Trail Update - Jeff is going to fix muddy spots with armoring. He has raised around \$2000 with a Go Fund Me campaign, and from Copes (a local company who also committed volunteers). This \$2000 will complete about 40% of what he needs to get done- approximately 400 ft can be fixed with this, out of a total of 800-1000 ft that needs fixing. Discussed promoting Go Fund Me for this project.

Covid changes - Discussion on if our strategy or initiatives should change due to the pandemic. Will look into increasing our marketing campaign with professional help. Brian and Joe have people who might be interested and will reach out.

Update on Raymond's presentation from the last meeting - The City of Muskegon has since decided they want to turn that area into a skate park instead of the trail we discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Next meeting: July 28, 2020 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McCoy