

Approved - BBAC Meeting Minutes – 9/18/14

MINUTES
of the
BROWN BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 18, 2014
5:15 PM
Brown Bridge Quiet Area – Pole Barn
3405 Brown Bridge Road
Traverse City, MI 49696

Present: Deni Scudato, Chair; Nelson Asper, Vice Chair; Marge Forgione; Judy Nemitz, Larry Gerschbacher; Jim Tuller, Michael Kreft, and Paul Maxbauer.

Absent: Dave Downer (Excused); Gary Howe (Excused); Bob Horstman (Excused)

Others Present: GTCD Staff - Steve Largent, Tom Vitale, and Reb Ratliff

I Call to Order: Chair Scudato called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

- 1. Introduction of Guests** – Reb Ratliff introduced himself to the group.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Scudato asked that Action Item 3-2 be added to the Agenda. Motion by Tuller; 2nd by Nemitz to approve the Agenda as amended. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Approval of 6/19/14 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Gerschbacher; 2nd by Tuller to approve the minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

II Review of Open Action Items:

Action Item 3-2: Largent will work with the City Clerk's office to amend the resolution that establishes a 12-member committee with one seat occupied by a designee of the TCL&P Board. **Status:** See III below.

Action Item 6-1: Christensen to summarize and distribute the MNFI report. **Status:** Now that the busy field season has settled down Christensen will prepare a summary and distribute to the BBAC for their review.

Action Item 6-2: District staff to contact the City Manager and proceed accordingly (regarding Boy Scout Troop 27 request to camp at Brown Bridge). **Status:** Largent reported that everything went well except the Scouts left their trash bags next to the full trash bin and that raccoons made a mess that GTCD staff had to clean up.

Action Item 6-3: District Staff will identify projects for the Recreation Plan and that they will bring back to the BBAC for approval. **Status:** The BBAC has the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan which contains most of the projects for the Recreation Plan. If the ballot proposal passes in November, specific projects will be identified and discussed at the December meeting.

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Action Item 6-4: District staff to arrange float trip prior to next meeting. **Status:** Due to inclement weather and busy schedules this did not take place.

Action Item 9-2-13: GTCD staff to contact engineering firms and begin the process of developing cost estimates, engineering plans, and permits for replacement of the Boy Scout Bridge over the Boardman. **Status:** Largent will address this issue later in the agenda.

III Gerschbacher Proposed Revised Structure – Unbeknownst to each other Gerschbacher and Largent both made suggested changes to the Committee structure which they submitted to Chair Scudato for consideration. Shortly thereafter, the City Clerk's office discovered that the City Commission had already officially acted in 2010 to remove the TCL&P representative from the BBAC. With this in mind Gerschbacher withdrew his suggested changes to the Committee Structure and recommended that the BBAC adopt the changes suggested by Largent with one exception, that the Committee Structure state that "no-less than six be City residents".

Action Item 9-1: Largent will add Gerschbacher's suggested change and send the draft document out to the entire Committee for consideration of approval at the December meeting.

IV Bottomland Restoration

- 1. Additional Large Woody Debris-** Largent reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Grand Traverse Band are still planning to place additional habitat wood in the new channel at Brown Bridge. They hoped to start this coming winter. Discussion ensued.
- 2. USF&W Service Grant** – Largent reported that the GTCD received a small grant from the USF&W Service to install a outlet control structure on a culvert located at the east end of the bottomlands near where the access steps come down the ridge. Largent also reported that GTCD staff submitted a habitat improvement grant to the MDNR to support work at Brown Bridge. GTCD staff will give an update at the December meeting.
- 3. East End Footbridge** – Largent reported that much progress has been made since the last meeting. He met with an individual who wrote a \$7,500 check that will be used to get the bridge sandblasted and painted and for engineering work. Largent also made contact with Senator Carl Levin's aide regarding the potential to use a National Guard helicopter to place the bridge. A draft letter to Senator Levin was prepared and is sitting on the City Manager's desk for consideration.

Action Item 9-2: Gerschbacher to contact the City Manager to determine the status of the letter.

- 4. Canoe Drop Off & Lower Parking Area** – This area has proved a huge success with paddlers. Ratliff reported that he believes that this area is now used more than the "Buck's Landing" parking area. The porta-john and trash receptacle provided by the Boardman River Clean Sweep and Traverse Area Paddle Club were key to keeping the area clean. A vault toilet is being proposed for the site and is addressed below (see V). One issue that was discussed is that some paddlers are not seeing the Canoe Landing – 200 Feet

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sign and are pulling their kayaks and canoes up the steep slope to the drop-off area.

Action Item 9-3: GTCD staff will make the canoe landing sign more visible.

- 5. Invasive Species Control** – Ratliff gave stated that crews have been busy all summer. He said that over 500 phragmites plants were located and hand swiped with an aquatic approved herbicide.

V Vault Toilet Building for Canoe Launch Area – Largent distributed a proposal by Dr. Norm Fred of Boardman River Clean Sweep to place a new vault toilet building that the MDNR isn't using at the canoe landing/drop off site. He said the MDNR is also willing to provide the backhoe and time to install the toilet building. All the City is responsible for is trim, paint, toilet stool, ADA fixtures, and door locks.

Motion by Nemitz, 2nd by Forgione to recommend approval of Dr. Fred's proposal including spending up to \$500 for the items listed above. Approved unanimously.

VI Brown Bridge Trust Fund Ballot Proposal – Scudato gave a status report from a committee called "Yes for City Parks". She said that the Committee is mailing post cards to city residents urging a yes vote. Discussion ensued.

VII MDNR Habitat Grant Commitment – Scudato indicated that she was contacted by GTCD Parkland Coordinator Robin Christensen regarding a letter of support for the grant. Because she received this request at the last minute Scudato was not able to run the letter of support past the rest of the BBAC. She said that she did not pledge any funds and purposely kept the wording vague.

VIII Public Comment – None

IX Meeting Review

**X Adjourn: Motion by Gerschbacher; 2nd by Tuller; Approved Unanimously.
6:28 pm**

Next Meeting: December 10, 2014, 5:15 pm at the Governmental Center

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by S. Largent.