

# BBAC Meeting Minutes – 3/19/15

## **MINUTES** of the **BROWN BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **Thursday, March 19, 2015** **5:15 PM** **County Training Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor** **Governmental Center** **400 Boardman Avenue** **Traverse City, MI 49684**

**Present:** Nelson Asper, Vice Chair; Marge Forgione; Larry Gerschbacher; Jim Tuller; Michael Kreft; Dave Downer; Ed Flees; Judy Nemitz; Paul Maxbauer; and Penny Hill, Acting City Manager.

**Absent:** D. Scrudato (Excused)

**Others Present:** GTCD Staff - Steve Largent, and Reb Ratliff.

**I Call to Order:** Vice Chair Asper called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

- 1. Introductions** – Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Largent asked to have Overlook Trimming added as #3 under V. Motion by Forgione; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tuller to approve the Agenda as amended. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Approval of 02/12/15 Special Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Gerschbacher; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flees to approve the minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

**II Review of Open Action Items:**

**Action Item 9-3:** GTCD staff will make the canoe landing sign more visible.  
**Status:** Signs are ordered and will be installed as weather allows.

**Action Item 12-2:** GTCD staff to install cement ramp to vault toilet building and make sure the building is otherwise accessible by wheelchair for those with disabilities.  
**Status:** Will be done this spring as weather allows.

**Action Item 12-4:** Largent to prepare a written summary of his discussion with Mr. Duley, MDEQ, Cadillac for the City Manager's consideration in response to Ms. Svensson's concerns.  
**Status:** Largent to get with City Manager on how to proceed.

**Action Item 12-5:** Prepare a clear summary of the 2014 expenditures for the March meeting. Also include matching funds and services in the summary.  
**Status:** Done.

**Action Item 2-1:** Largent to investigate the possibility of planting a small number of black willows at Brown Bridge.

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**Status:** Someone already planted willows along the river straight out from the former boat launch and there are several coming up naturally. GTCD staff to monitor.

**Action Item 2-2:** Send the actual Excel file, in black & white, of the CIP to the entire BBAC with Capital Improvement Projects, Maintenance Projects, and Visionary Projects shown in different tabs.

**Status:** Done

**Action Item 2-3:** Include an update on the fish passage issue on the March meeting agenda.

**Status:** To be discussed.

**Action Item 2-4:** Include the idea of a mid-bottomlands footbridge on the next revision of the Brown Bridge Management Plan.

**Status:** Noted.

### III **Park Improvement Fund – Update**

Hill stated that the City Commission has not historically put money aside in a chunk like is being suggested. She stated that the City Commission will be discussing the issue during the budget process. The City Commission adopts the budget at the last meeting in May. Downer asked if the budget meetings will be publicly noticed. Hill stated yes. Hill stated that the City Commission will have final say on projects for the Park Improvement Fund.

**Action Item: 3-1:** Hill to distribute budget public meeting schedule to BBAC.

### IV **GT Band/City MOA to access NRCS funds for Bottomlands Planting**

Largent reported that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City and the GT Band also needed to include the Grand Traverse Conservation District per the recommendation of the City Attorney. The MOA will allow the City to access Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) cost-share funding to implement practices that improve fish and wildlife habitat such as native tree and shrub planting along the river and other areas in the bottomlands at Brown Bridge. The EQIP funding will augment a MDNR Habitat Grant that was received by the Conservation District for a similar but limited effort. The MOA was recently signed by all three entities.

### V **MDNR Habitat Improvement Grant (GTCD Staff)**

1. **Aspen Cuts:** Largent stated that the creation of two 5-10 acre wildlife openings is part of the MDNR Habitat Improvement grant GTCD received for Brown Bridge. The logging company will harvest the timber with a portion of the timber to be used in the river for habitat. Ratliff displayed aerial photos and maps showing the numerous locations considered for the openings. After a great deal of field reconnaissance and consideration, GTCD staff suggested two areas that lie north of Hobbs Highway and east of East Arbutus Lake Road. Discussion ensued.

**Motion by Downer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flees to authorize GTCD staff to proceed with the wildlife opening cuts as proposed. Approved unanimously.**

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2. **Tree & Shrub Work Bees** - Largent and Ratliff reported that two public tree and shrub planting work bees were being scheduled for Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Brown Bridge. The goal is to plant over 3,000 native trees and shrubs along the dredged section of river to help re-establish the riparian corridor. The cost for the trees and shrubs are covered through the MDNR Habitat grant.
3. **Overlook Trimming** – Largent and Ratliff reported that GTCD staff recently completed clearing select trees to open the view-shed overlooking the bottomlands at both the East and West overlooks. Flees suggested moving the Info signs to the north side of the overlook to improve the view. Discussion ensued. No action was taken.

**VI 2014 Expenditures** – Largent presented a detailed report on 2014 expenditures. Discussion ensued. No further action required.

**VII Fish Passage Update** - Largent distributed draft Meeting Notes for a Fish Passage Working Team Meeting that was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The BBAC discussed how this issue directly impacts the Brown Bridge Quiet Area if non-native Great Lakes fish are allowed to pass once the dams are removed. Discussion ensued.

**Action Item 3-2:** Largent to send notice to the entire BBAC once the day and time of the next Fish Passage Working Group Meeting is determined.

**VIII Public Comment** – No public were present to comment. A BBAC member (?) asked why and when Brown Bridge was determined “not” to be a City park with a concern that since Brown Bridge was declared as not being a City park if that would eliminate Brown Bridge from accessing the new Park Improvement Fund. Discussion ensued.

**Action Item 3-3:** Largent to pull together information regarding the history of Park vs Not a Park for Brown Bridge to present at the next meeting.

**Action Item 3-4:** Largent to give a presentation at the next meeting regarding GTCD and the Parkland Program.

### **IX Meeting Review**

**VIII Adjourn:** Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

**Next Meeting: June 18, 2015, 5:00 pm, ANNUAL POTLUCK – Buck’s Landing**

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by S. Largent.