

Boardman Lake Trail Advisory Group Meeting Notes
February 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Advisory Group Members Present:

Dan Baker, Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
Vicki Cook, NMC/University Center
Jennifer DeHaan, GT County Administrator's Office
Kris Erickson, Grand Traverse County Parks Staff
Enid Hagerty, TART Trail Ambassador
Jason Homa, Traverse Tourism
Missy Luick, City of Traverse City Planner
Matt McDonough, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Linnaea Melcarek, South Fourteenth Street Neighborhood

Jim Moore, Disability Network of Northern MI
Gail Parsons, Traverse Area District Library
Judy Reich, Old Town Neighborhood
John Sych, Grand Traverse County Planner
Lauren Vaughn, City of Traverse City Parks Director
Susan Vigland, TART Trails Board Member
Sarah U'Ren, The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
Tom Vitale, Grand Traverse Conservation District
Kelly Yaroch-Dunham, BATA

TART Trails Inc.

Julie Clark, Executive Director
Chris Kushman, Trail Planning and Management Director

Contractors Present:

Matt Levandoski and Scott Post, Prein & Newhof
Megan Olds, Parallel Solutions LLC
Sarah Naperala, Naperala Consulting LLC

Advisory Group Purpose:

- Assessing any physical, social, environmental issues or other issues that may inform trail design
- Identifying current programs, projects, activities or services that may relate the trail's use, design, or experiences
- Providing feedback on draft designs
- Informing your constituencies about the design process and opportunities for engagement

The purpose of this meeting was the assess issues that may inform trail design and identify current programs, projects, activities or services that may relate to the trail's use, design, and experiences.

Breakout Group Exercise Notes:

The Boardman Lake Trail Advisory Group broke into 4 smaller groups. Using maps of the project area they discussed the following topics and questions:

- Describe any physical, social, political, financial, environmental issues, plans, or parameters you are aware of that may inform the trail design and development.
- What is happening or planned? Where is it happening? Why is it important, and who is involved?
- What would a “win” for trail design & development look like from your lenses?

Each group identified a recorder and a reporter. The reporter shared the notes from the breakout group with the larger group. The combined comments and ideas shared by the groups are listed below. If more than one group mentioned an issue, the number of times it was mentioned is in noted in parentheses. The list is not prioritized.

Physical, social, political, financial, environmental issues, plans or parameters that may inform trail design and development:

- Steep slopes, and erosion issues (4)
- Potential for 2 trails, one by the water and one up on the ridge to avoid erosion and elevation issues
- Sediment from development
- How many river crossings? New river crossings? Is there a planned culvert replacement? Maintenance issue? (2)
- Wetlands
- Boardwalk to avoid the swamp area (2)
- Invasive species issues – hawthorn and access to the lake
- Waterfowl issues, feeding, what are the ordinances?
- Surface material? Is it pavement, mulch, limestone?
- How does the trail rise and stay Universally Accessible?
- The original vision of Ted Okerstrom was to have a cross-country ski trail; is that vision still relevant given the current recreation and transportation uses patterns?
- Future rail line?
- Relationship between the road and trail, minimize the crossings of railroad or roads, and if road is use, must be safe
- How to avoid high traffic areas?
- Property rights and willing landowners for easements or widen of current easement (2)
- Financial? Implementation costs?
- Expensive to build
- Maintenance and jurisdiction, who does what? Get agreement early in the plan (3)
- Winter maintenance, groomed for skiing?

- Logan's Landing is a challenge and opportunity – can it be redeveloped, perhaps a trail heard/entrance point (2)
- Parking – TADL is full
- MDOT rail line requirements
- Are there any areas of existing pollution? Brownfields?
- Homeless camps
- Drug use and safety

Strengths, Opportunities, and “Wins”:

- Maintain a scenic feel and route
- Keep it as natural as possible
- Keep it close to the lake as possible and not negatively impact the environment
- Maintain the wildlife habitat
- Paved surface would be the most beneficial
- Connectivity to public transportation
- Access to destinations
- Spur trail to get to NMC (2)
- Ability to cross South Airport Road
- How to avoid South Airport Road (2)
- Clearly define entry points and parking (2)
- Universally Accessible design (2)
- Water trail
- Take out and put in for boats/kayaks along the trail (4)
- Overlooks, observation decks, lookouts (2)
- Identify best fishing locations and have platforms (2)
- Winter lake access to south end for ice fishing
- Pit stops: picnic tables and gazebos, along the way for users, other amenities (2)
- Educational trail, interpretive signs
- Potential lighting (2)
- Public parks at both ends with amenities, such as restrooms
- Political support and strong partnership from the city, county, and township (3)
- Other partnership opportunities
- Demonstrate the property values that the trail supports
- At Medalie Park: business enhancements, food trucks, enhance that side of the trail
- Design to discourage the things you don't want; create a safe physical environment on the ground and for users (2)

Next Advisory Group Meeting Date:

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Traverse Area District Library, McGuire Room. The purpose of the meeting will be to review draft trail designs.