

*As usual this draft minutes is to give those interested an idea about the exciting things going on the Panhandle Pathway. And also to receive any comments, corrections, critiques from your reviews. /Toma 574 946 4267*

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**FRIENDS of the PANHANDLE PATHWAY Inc.**  
**DRAFT Board & Public Meeting Minutes DRAFT**  
 April 29, 2014 6:30 PM Winamac Town Municipal Building

Officers/Board of Directors  
 John Bawcum, President/BoD  
 Steve Crosby, Vice President/BoD  
 Mike O Connor, BoD  
 Deb Carlson BoD  
 Max Metzger BoD  
 Carol Croell, Treasurer  
 Tom Anspach (acting Secretary)

Attendees: Tom Anspach, John Bawcum, Mike O'Connor, Steve Crosby, Deb Carlson, Kelly Hines, Max Metzger, Carl Anspach, Julie Anspach, Nancy Spiewak, Larry Spiewak, Kathy Kegarise, Joe Crist, Tom White, Jerry Anspach, Rex Allman, Nathan Deminen, Ed Hollenger, Nathan's coach.

The Board of Directors and Public Meeting was called to order by President John Bawcum at about 6:30 PM

1. **Review Approve Previous Minutes (1/28/2014 & 3/25/14).** The 1/28/2014 Annual Membership, Board and Public Meeting Minutes and 3/25/2014 Public/Board Minutes were approved as written.
2. **Committee Reports**
  - 2.1. **Operations (BoD)**
    - 2.1.1. Status of Insurance application – No report
    - 2.1.2. Membership Certificates Presentation - None
  - 2.2. **Maintenance & Safety (BoD) –**
    - 2.2.1. **Pavement-** Jerry Anspach reported his concern about cracks and crumbling surface of asphalt between Winamac and Star City. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> section of trail to be paved. It was completed in August 2009 about 5 years ago. Deterioration of the ARRA section Star City to Kenneth can be expected to occur. Paving was completed in July 2010. It should be a major priority to 'fix' the asphalt surface before it deteriorates further. After discussion is was agreed that this should be a high priority. May cost about \$5,000 to seal. As a result of discussion the maintenance committee should come up with a plan and cost to accomplish this. Work to be done early fall.
    - 2.2.2. **Maintenance Fund Raising** - It was also suggested that we hold fundraisers in Cass County (Fish Fry, Port a Pit, bike rides, etc.) to help support the trail.
    - 2.2.3. **RR Ties** - Max Metzger suggested that the junky piles of RR ties in the Royal Center area be organized neatly in rows along or near the edge of the RR Right of Way. Discussion resulted 'go for it, get'r done'.
    - 2.2.4. **Crooked Creek.** At the April Maintenance Committee meeting it was decided, by a motion and vote that we cut down the tree at Crooked Creek as it is rotting, dangerous and subject to falling into the creek. Further considerations are ongoing. Options will be reviewed with Tod Groff.
  - 2.3. **Nature Committee (Kathy Kegarise)**
    - 2.3.1. **Prairie Grass Burn** - A controlled burn was completed on about half of the prairie grass area. Remainder will be burned when conditions are right.
    - 2.3.2. **Quails Forever** – The Quails forever group would like to plant Quail attracting flowers along the Pathway. No FoPP cost would be required.  
 After much discussion a **MOTION** was made by John Bawcum, to allow the flower planning, suggesting that the easily accessible wide area just south of Royal Center might be a good place to start, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Max Metzger, motion passed.
    - 2.3.3. **Kim Hoover** 'wild bird rehabilitator' will provide a 'birds on the trail' talk.
  - 2.4. **Construction (BoD) –** No report
  - 2.5. **Public Relations (Kelly Hines)**
    - 2.5.1. **Web site update status** – Slow progress is being made to update the web site. Some analytics information was discussed: from March 5 – April 28. 506 accesses were recorded.



**2.5.2. Walk Ride to school day –** May 7<sup>th</sup> is walk ride to school day. Activities have been set up in Winamac and Royal Center.

**2.6. Fund raising (BoD)**

**2.6.1. Port a Pit Chicken –** Carl Anspach reported that the Port a Pit BBQ chicken has been set for June 14<sup>th</sup> NAPA parking lot Winamac.

**2.6.2. Trail Neighbor Business Advertizing -** A suggestion was made to have businesses along the trail ‘advertize’ on the web site by listings on the web site. Distribute QR codes along the trail for easy web access to smart phone users.

**2.6.3. Billboards -** John B suggested that we may want to add advertizing ‘bill boards’ along the trail if the present usage trend continues. He also suggested that we could list FoPP special events on if a billboard is not sponsored.

**2.7. Land Acquisition (BoD)**

**2.7.1. France Park Access update –** A ‘walk the ‘trail’ meeting was held along the proposed route to France Park with RRoad officials. It appears to be possible that an access to France Park is doable, but quite a ways off. The RR officials want to see the ‘val’ maps of this area to be sure of unused track ownership. Action will be taken to obtain val maps. Board permission was sought to seek these Val Maps, as some cost may be involved. A **MOTION** was made 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed to go ahead and seek the requested Val maps.

**2.8. Liaison (Dave Bennett)**

**2.8.1. Safe Routes to School (Winamac) –** no report.

**2.8.2. Town RTP Grant to depot (& north) –** no report

**3. New Business**

**3.1. Eagle Scout Project –** 1st on the agenda was Nathan Deminen of Burnettsville. He discussed his project to build a shelter, very similar to those at the Winamac and Star City Trail heads, in Cass County. After discussion it was decided that the 50N Trail Head would be a good location. He would need to have it completed by late this year. Steve McIntyres phone number was given to him as a good person to talk to about this area. He is a Geo Cache buff, knows of the many Cache’s located along the trail and would like to put on near his shelter. He will present his concepts and location at the May meeting in Royal Center.

A **MOTION** for Nathan to present his concepts and location details at the next meeting (last Tuesday of May at Royal Center) was made by Mike O’Connor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Carlson, motion passed.

**3.2. Set out trees on North Trail End –** 2<sup>nd</sup> on the agenda was Dr Hollenberg who proposed setting out Cypress and Spruce trees along the trail essentially in the area Galbreath toward the end of the Railbanked trail to the north. After resulting concerns or right of way, not to have branch’s overhanging within the 10 feet of the trail shoulder rule, not cost to FoPP, were understood, it seemed like a good idea.

A **MOTION** to let Dr Hollenberg obtain and plant the trees in the designated area was made by Max Metzger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kelly Hines, motion passed.

**4. Panhandle Pathway Events**

**4.1.1. Down & Back Bicycle Ride August 2<sup>nd</sup> 7AM -** Meetings will be planned shortly to start planning for the D&B ride. Steve C suggested we list our ride on the Bike Rides in Indiana Web site <http://brinin.org/>.

**4.1.2. Ride walk to School day Wed. May 7<sup>th</sup>.** 7 - 7:30 am Winamac Depot ride walk to school, Ride walk to Pioneer school and ride the Panhandle after school.

**5. Panhandle Pathway meetings**

**5.1. Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2014.**

**5.2. Public/Board meeting May - 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM** Last Tuesday alternating between Winamac and Royal Center. Next Meeting 5/27 at Royal Center **Locations:** Winamac: Town Municipal Building, 623 W 11st (IN14) (entrance west side of building).- Royal Center: Town Hall 104 E North St (entrance in rear of Fire Station door on right).

**5.3. Committee Meetings**

- 5.3.1. May - Construction Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday) 6PM Winamac Library
- 5.3.2. May - Maintenance Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) 6PM Royal Center Location To Be Announced
- 5.3.3. May - Publicity Meeting Library (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) 6PM Winamac Library
- 5.3.4. May - France Park Access Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) at 3:00 in room 306 of the Cass County Courthouse building
- 5.3.5.– May - Maintain Nature committee 'working meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Monday 4pm) (location TBA), (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9am) (Location TBA)

**5.4. Other Meetings**

**Adjourn – A MOTION** was made 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed to adjourn the meeting at about 7:45PM

Submitted by Tom Anspach, acting Secretary