

Trail 77 Committee

November 16, 2011

Lake Shore City Hall

Attending: Gayle Momchilovich, Ron Faust, Don Hoyer, Jon Ingleman, Teri Hastings, Neal Gaalswyk, Mark Kavanaugh
Representing Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc: Matthew Reid, Project Manager and Heidi Peper, Sr. Community Development Specialist

Ms. Peper distributed notes on Organizing for Success, Securing Financing, Planning, and Construction. SEH has just completed the East Gull Lake Trail and worked for seven years with the ROCORI Trail Group.

Key steps in organizing include forming an executive trail committee, conducting a community development survey, defining the trail corridor, commissioning a feasibility study, holding informational meetings, and seeking grants.

Sources of possible funding were discussed including:

- Cass County Fund 73
- Federal trail grant funding (4 years out)
- MN State Legislature
- DNR Regional Trail Grant Program
- DNR Legacy Trails Grant Program
- DNR Federal Recreational Trail Program
- MNDOT
- Rural Safe Route School Grants
- Snowmobile companies
- Cote Foundation

Agencies that give grants to assist in planning include:

- Mn Blue Cross/ Blue Shield
- Regional Initiative Foundation
- Regional Development Commission

After a corridor is chosen, it must be studied to make sure it is realistic, feasible, and not cost prohibitive. Federal regulations stipulate a 10 foot width with 2 feet on each side, and a grade no higher than 8% depending on the length of the slope. To secure some grants, other townships and cities must at least have a "Cooperative Agreement" to develop their parts of a trail.

Teri noted that she has asked Widseth Smith & Nolting to update their previously received feasibility proposal and she will attempt to schedule them to present to us on November 28th after the Katie Fernholz presentation.

Teri said the Team was an ad hoc committee appointed by the City Council and as such all business is public. The next meeting of the Trail 77 Committee will be Monday, November 28 at 1 PM to interview Katie Fernholz. Following that meeting, the Committee will meet Monday, December 12 at 3 PM to work on a recommendation for the City Council.