

Trail 77 Team

October 24, 2011

Lake Shore City Hall

Attending: Steve Sundstrom, Don Hoger, Kris Driessen, Susan Amacher, Gayle Momchilovich, Ron Faust, Marla Yoho, Teri Hastings, Lyle Kline. Others will be joining the Team at future meetings.

1. After introductions, Steve Sundstrom volunteered to Chair the group with Gayle Momchilovich serving as Vice Chair and Ron Faust serving as Secretary.
2. It was agreed that the group is a team with a mission, not a committee. Two members of the Lake Shore City Council in attendance said that the City Council was supportive of the Trail 77 project; . The Team will keep them informed as progress is made and gain approvals from the City Council as needed.
3. Right of Way maps were studied. They had already been created for the 7.8 miles where Highway 77 winds through Lake Shore. The right of way is not uniform in width and the highway does not run in the center of the right of way in many sections. Defining the route of the trail will be one of the Team 77 tasks.
4. Other steps to be accomplished will be:
 - a. Selecting a consultant, whether that would be an individual or an engineering firm. This will hopefully start at the next meeting during the week of November 14th. Teri Hastings will work to line up interviews, then set the exact time and date.
 - b. Obtaining easements and/or purchasing land where necessary.
 - c. Obtaining funding.
5. Goals for the trail were discussed:
 - a. Safety is a very important reason for building Trail 77. In addition to the risks Highway 77 poses to walkers and bicyclists during the day, Chief of Police Sundstrom explained the risks the highway poses to pedestrians leaving our multiple restaurants and bars at night. Although the project could cost over a million dollars, the prevention of one or more pedestrian accidents over future years could put that expense into a different perspective. For this reason the trail will be planned off-highway and not as a widened shoulder or bike lane.
 - b. The trail must be a multiuse trail as that will greatly facilitate funding, as well as enable Trail 77 to ultimately connect to the East Gull Lake trail. It was expected that snowmobile and 4 x 4 use would be minimal. It is hoped that the trail will eventually connect with trails being planned through Fairview Township and Nisswa.
 - c. As much grant funding will be sought as possible
 - d. The trail will look good. The Team will strive to “make it beautiful” whenever an aesthetic option is considered.