



Saugatuck Township Board

Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023, at 5:30pm

Meeting held In-Person

Call to Order:

Supervisor Bigford called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Supervisor Bigford, Clerk Israels, Treasurer Helmrich, Trustee Marcy, Trustee Aldrich.

Also present: Manager DeFranco & Recording Secretary Arens.

Absent: None

Approval of Agenda:

A **Motion** was made by Marcy to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Aldrich.

Discussion: None

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Presentation: A presentation was given by Roger Marks and Erik Cronk from C2AE on overview of the Blue Star Trail project in Saugatuck Township and Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Program.

Supervisor Bigford Opens Public Hearing on Trust Fund Grant application to develop .6 miles of the Blue Star Trail

1. Ken Butler, identified himself as speaking on behalf of the Saugatuck Township Parks Commission. Butler stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission was in favor of the project and adopted a resolution in support of the Township's Trust Fund Application at their March Meeting. Butler noted that the Parks Commission has been collaborating with the Township in improving the grant application and project in general. Butler believed that the Township was very close to securing the necessary funding to complete the Blue Star Trail project and felt enthusiastic about this year's application to the Trust Fund Grant Program.
2. Kathy Sturm, Thanked the Board and C2AE for all the fantastic work that has gone into getting to this point in the development of the Blue Star Trail and in the application to the Trust Fund Grant Program. Sturm expressed confidence that the Blue Star Trail project would move forward. Sturm was excited that the Blue Star Trail project would result in the creation of a new park (Amelanchier Park) for the community.
3. Schuyler Suydam, wanted to confirm that the proposed Blue Star Trail would not be located on his property. Does not want lights facing his property. Suydam inquired into the material of the trail.



4. Dale Ann Suydam, questioned whether the proposed trail needed to be paved. Wanted to know whether there was any flexibility in the width of the proposed trail. Said that the previous Board had discussed potentially planting trees along the border of the trail and her property.

5. Nancy Kimble, asked whether any lighting along the trail could be Dark-Sky compliant. DeFranco confirmed that the Township has a Dark Skies Lighting Ordinance and any lighting along the trail would have to conform to that ordinance.

Public Hearing Closed.

Adjournment:

Supervisor Bigford adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.



MOTIONS

1. A **Motion** was made by Marcy to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Aldrich. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully,

Daniel DeFranco, Township Manager

I Rebecca Israels, Township Clerk, certify that these minutes were approved on March 16, 2023 by the Township Board.

Rebecca Israels

Township Clerk

March 21, 2023

Date