

**Polly Ann Trail Management Council, Inc. (PATMC)**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2005, 2:30 p.m.**  
**Village of Leonard Rowland Hall**

**Present:** Council Members:

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Eugene Mallia, Chairman     | (LV)  |
| Pauline Blanka              | (LV)  |
| Sue Bellairs                | (OxT) |
| Kallie Roesner              | (OxT) |
| Ed Brakefield               | (AT)  |
| Robert Koski, Vice Chairman | (AT)  |
| Matt Gibb                   | (OrT) |
| Alice Young                 | (OrT) |
| Joe Young                   | (OxV) |

Citizen Representatives:

Cathy Brakefield  
Frank Cobb  
Trail Manager Lois Golden

**Absent:**

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Renee Donovan | (OxV) |
|---------------|-------|

**Others present** Larry Obrecht and several other guests.

Respects were given to the flag and invocation by Ed Brakefield.

**Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Chairperson Eugene Mallia called the meeting to order at 2:30.m. Secretary Young called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Ed Brakefield moved, Robert Koski seconded, to approve the agenda with changing items 11. a. and c. to action items. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Sue Bellairs moved, Alice Young seconded, to approve the August 17, 2005 minutes. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ed Brakefield stated a media copy of the September 14, 2005 session which did not have a quorum was provided for information only.

Ed Brakefield moved, seconded by Sue Bellairs, to receive and file a printed email message from Marge Gatliff regarding her comments at the December 4, 2004 meeting. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

Merle Richmond, (248-64-1409, [merlerichmond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlerichmond@sbcglobal.net)), coordinator of the County Equestrian Coalition, commented on the miscommunication about having a two trail system. A question regarding the specifications of the trail was asked and what the Master Plan included. Larry Obrecht stated that the current ASHTO standards call for a 12 foot bridge and trail (not ten feet) with a two foot shoulder. The original master plan (1998 to 2003), at the time of the grant submission and award did not address having a side trail in Leonard. Asphalt trail in the Villages of Oxford and Leonard were in the original master plan. The Master Plan update from 2004-2005 did include having a side trail.

Several residents commented on the need to have a side trail for horses in the Village of Leonard along the asphalted pathway. Others commented about having a side trail the entire length of the trail.

Comments that horse and skate boards/roller skates/blades do not mix well when sharing a pathway.

Kallie Roesner asked what surfaces were preferred by equestrians. Merle Richmond stated that the preferred horse trail base in order of preference is dirt, grass, wood chips, crushed limestone and lastly asphalt.

Merle Richmond asked how do we go about getting a horse trail? Larry Obrecht stated that clearing the trail for a second (horse) path in many places is okay- wide and clear enough, but there are some wetlands, ravines, embankments and clearing that would need to be addressed. Using free labor to clear the trail and a seeking a separate grant or other funds could be pursued for the side trail. A \$60,000 grant was executed last week by Bob Koski for the trail project that Mr. Obrecht was able to secure. Lois Golden commented that the WAM crew is limited to the tools they have and the clearing would require heavier equipment. Matt Gibb asked if crushed limestone is acceptable, which is used by horses on the Paint Creek Trail.

Chairman Mallia commented that the Village of Leonard made the decision to have asphalt for wheel chair use and access and will keep the asphalt as was committed to. A comment about seeking corporate donations for the horse trail was made. Ground stability techniques have worked for other trail areas. One person commented on a possible trail connection to the Macomb Orchard Trail needing horse trail use. A cost benefit analysis for an equestrian trail north to Dryden was suggested. Dr. Charles Becker commented that rollerblades/skateboard and horses do not mix using the same trail. Chairperson Mallia commented about seeking funds and the time for a side trail in Leonard would be a little bit longer. Ed Brakefield commented about the PATMC being obligation to notify horse riders to "ride at your own risk" with signage. Matt Gibb agreed about signage that would be "Asphalt maybe hazardous".

A concern regarding the time delay it would take to get DNR approval for the side trail was expressed.

The asphalt trail in Leonard is from Gerst Road to Rochester Road, about 5/8 of a mile. The asphalt trail access at the school was discussed and noted that the School had requested the access. Larry Obrecht commented on grant funds of \$19 million are designated for safe routes for schools. It was noted that Leonard is the only horse staging area on the trail. Alice Young commented about using funds for the side trail. Lois Golden stated that one grant is due April 1. Matt Gibb commented that the Polly Ann

Trail has a commitment to horses using the trail. It was noted that the next priority project is for Orion Township. No cost estimate or plan was available for the side trail in Leonard.

Ed Brakefield moved, seconded by Pauline Blanka, to allocate \$5,000 of the equestrian funds for a side trail from Elwood to Gerst with the understanding that the DNR will allow us to do it, if not, the \$5,000 of equestrian funds would go to Oakland Equestrian Coalition.

By roll call vote, the motion passed 5-4 (Ayes: Koski, Brakefield, Joe Young, Gibb; Nays: Mallia, Bellairs, Rosener, Alice Young; Absent: Donovan)

Ed Brakefield moved, seconded by Joe Young to recess for five minutes. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously. (4:00 pm.)

Bob Koski moved, seconded by Joe Young to reconvene the meeting. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously. (4:12 pm.)

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Alice Young went over the Treasurer's report. The checking account balance as of August 31 was \$50,830.53. Current bills due totaled \$966.51. Bob Koski moved, Matt Gibb, to approve the bills to pay in the amount of \$966.51. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Trail Manager's Report**

Trail Manager Golden written report was received.

#### **Citizen's Representatives Report**

Cathy Brakefield thanked all the audience for attending the meeting.

Frank Cobb commented about the need to work out a solution for the side trail.

#### **Development Status Update ( agenda item 10.a )**

Larry Obrecht reported on the construction status of the trail and bridge project. Tetra Tech Engineers representative, Jayson Nault, reported that the bridge construction is expected to start next week. Larry reported that the asphalt paving in the Village of Leonard and Oxford is planned for next week.

New Business:

#### **Trail Surface in Leonard ( agenda item 11 a.)**

Bob Koski moved, seconded by Joe Young, to have plans and a no-cost cost estimate for a side trail in the Village of Leonard from Gerst to Rochester Roads and the two miles in Orion Township.

By roll call vote the motion passed (8-1, Gibb; Absent: Donovan).

Discussion concerning seeking grant funds for the side trail was held. It was noted that the next priority project is for Orion Township.

A supplemental grant for \$60,000 of additional funds was applied for and secured by Larry Obrecht for electrical line relocation and engineering costs. The grant was executed since the last meeting. Sue Bellairs commented about the grant solicitation needing to be communicated to and approved by the board.

Ed Brakefield moved, seconded by Bob Koski, to start the process of getting approval from the DNR for a side trail in Leonard next to the asphalt trail. By roll call vote the motion passed (8-1, Gibb; Absent: Donovan).

**Scope Change Request MSE Wall- Oxford Bridge (agenda item 11 b.)**

A scope change was proposed by Anlaan Corporation to replace the stone veneer with Ashlar Stone Textured MSE wall on the bridge. The change was recommended for approval by the Tetra Tech engineer. The new material would provide for better joint matching and save \$44,650.

Joe Young moved, seconded by Ed Brakefield, to approve the scope change requested for MSE wall with a credit of \$44,650. By roll call vote the motion passed (8-1, Bellairs; Absent: Donovan).

**Authority & Contact for project modifications, etc. (agenda item 11 c.)**

Bob Koski moved, seconded by Matt Gibb, to have Larry Obrecht as project manger as the contact person for Tetra Tech. By voice vote the motion passed (8-1, Brakefield; Absent: Donovan).

Manager Golden clarified that the board's intent supported her need to maintain contact with Tetra Tech for day to day issues, information, and field needs. She would keep the board informed.

**Stop Sign Oxford/Glaspie at (agenda item 11 d.)**

Kallie Rosener presented comments regarding the police ticketing for radar speed violations at the Polly Ann Trail on Glaspie/Oxford Road.

Kallie Rosener moved, seconded by Ed Brakefield, to communicate the negative public concern of the speed trap being at the Polly Ann Trail and that the police use Powell Street instead. By voice vote the motion passed, unanimously. (Absent: Donovan)

**Acceptance of 2004 Audit (agenda item 11.e.)**

Treasurer Alice Young reviewed the FY 2004 audit report. Joe Young moved, seconded to receive and file the FY 2004 audit report. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously. (Absent: Donovan)

**Amendments to 2005 Budget (agenda item 11.f.)**

Amendments to the current budget were presented by Alice Young as prepared by her and accountant Lynn Gustafson. Alice stated that accounting software was being checked on for the Treasurer and Trail Manager to take over the accounting since Lynn Gustafson is looking to not continue as accountant.

Joe Young moved, seconded by Ed Brakefield, to amend the budget by the \$440 as proposed. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously. (Absent: Donovan).

**2006 Proposed Budget Adoption (agenda item 11.g.)**

The proposed pending funding shortfall by Addison Township was discussed. Bob Koski stated that Addison Township is having funding problems which they are pursuing other revenue sources and want to remain a member of the Polly Ann Trail Management Council. The township budget begins January 1, while the PATMC budget begins October 1. Matt Gibb asked for the procedure on fiscal year differences, as to billings. Chairperson Mallia moved, seconded by Alice Young to adopt the 2006 budget as proposed. By roll call vote the motion passed unanimously with two abstentions (Koski, Brakefield; Absent: Donovan).

**RTP 2005 Grant (agenda item 11.h.)**

A copy of a \$60,000 DNR Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant as secured by Larry Obrecht was received.

**Addison Township PATMC Participation (agenda item 11.i.)**

Bob Koski stated that Addison Township is working on raising funds, and want to remain a member of the Polly Ann Trail Management Council.

**DNR/PATMC Lease (agenda item 11.j.)**

A copy of the proposed lease with the DNR was received. A subcommittee was suggested to review the lease.

Alice Young moved, seconded by Joe Young, to have a subcommittee comprised of Matt Gibb, Sue Bellairs and Lois Golden, review the proposed leased with the DNR. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously. (Absent: Donovan).

**Convene to closed session: Real Estate (agenda item 11.k.)**

The real estate matter was not taken up at the meeting.

**Personnel Budget proposal**

Larry Obrecht discussed the dilemma with Addison Township funding shortfall and the need to revisit the budget in the survival mode. Larry presented a budget worksheet with two options to reduce the largest budget item being contractual services for the trail manager. Joe Young moved, seconded by Ed Brakefield to postpone this matter to the October meeting. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously. (Absent: Donovan).

**Council Member Comments (item 12)**

Sue Bellairs asked about the fact sheet that was to be prepared for the trail and bridge project. Chairman Mallia will contact Larry Obrecht regarding the fact sheet.

Pauline Blanka and Lois Golden are to look for grants for Orion Township and equestrian projects.

**Adjournment**

Ed Brakefield moved, seconded by Joe Young, to adjourn. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously. (Absent: Donovan).

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by K. Joe Young

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at Friendship Park, Orion Township.