11/23 TOMMBA Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Scott, Steve V, Steve S, John, Bill, Chris, Brad, Eric

**Treasurer’s Report:** The general fund was similar to last month’s statement. We recently received a $1,000 donation as well as an approximately $500 quarterly membership check from IMBA.

**Avalanche Project Update:** Brad updated the board on his conversations with Chad from Dirt Artisans. Chad still feels the trail will firm up this winter, especially the berms. He will check in next spring to see how the trail is progressing. He reiterated that Dirt Artisans will make sure we are happy with the end result.

We received a $17,000 grant from the community foundation. That puts us well under $50,000 to raise for Phase 2, which will hopefully happen next summer.

There was discussion about getting at least temporary signage up in early spring to lesson confusion about multiple trail intersections. Board consensus was to keep the old trail open and look for potential places to link it up where the new construction coincided with the old trail.

**Vote for the approval to pay Dirt Artisans for Invoice #3: Motion: Steve S. Second: Steve V. Motion passes 8-0.**

**Discussion of Communication with TOMMBA Members/Open Board Meetings:** Board consensus was supportive of public board meetings. However, concerns were brought up that we still need to be able to conduct board business in an efficient manner. Board members also wanted to make sure that we still have the opportunity, if needed, to enter into a closed board meeting. However, we do not foresee this happening very often. The board agreed that we would hold several public board meetings per year, starting in January of 2017. These will be announced via Facebook and email newsletter.

**Petoskey Trail Team Update:** John, Chris, and Steve met with several Petoskey/Harbor area riders in the interest of finding potential trailbuilding projects in the Petoskey/Harbor area. The initial meeting was positive. Those who met were enthusiastic and have multiple local connections that should help in the future. The group will meet again on December 6th.

**Marketing/Fundraiser:** Several Boyne City and Petoskey restaurants/breweries have expressed interest in helping with fundraisers or special events. Our goal is to have a winter schedule put together.

Also, the board discussed the importance of creating specific sponsorship levels in the very near future for local donors and businesses. Copper Harbor and Marquette are great models to follow for this.

**Michigan Bike Festival:**  We were the only applicant so the MMBA is currently looking into our facilities and ability to hold the event, which is scheduled for August 25th and 26th of 2017. It would be a great way to showcase our local trails and towns.

**Boyne City School Forest Trail Update:** Construction has continued on Loop 3. We are approaching ¾ of a mile. Initial reviews are positive. Eric mentioned that Matelski’s Lumber is willing to donate rough-cut cedar to build wooden features on Loop 3.

**Browns Creek Pathway Update:** Brad has been putting in many hours on the excavator and has close to 2 miles of rough cut trail that needs finishing. Scott has worked with the EJ Rotary to secure a $5,000 grant for signage, excavator rental, and construction.