Pentwater Hart Trail Year End Report 2020

Hello Trail Supporters,

Just like everything else in 2020, planning and building the Pentwater Hart Trail has had its challenges, however the year is ending on a high note!

While meetings were not possible due to COVID safety guidelines, the board of directors met regularly via Zoom.

In March when everything was halted, we put our efforts

into becoming a 5013c nonprofit organization, independent of the Community Foundation for Oceana County. Our organization is registered as the “Friends of the Pentwater Hart Trail.”

We will, however, keep our fund with the Community Foundation for those who prefer fund transfers, however all funds raised through events will now be deposited into the account of Friends of the Pentwater Hart Trail. This fund is earmarked for future maintenance of the trail.

Our board officers include myself as President, Tim Ressel as Secretary and John Wilson as Treasurer. Our Board of Directors includes Julie Eamen, John Faas and Sue Squire. I am very grateful for the time volunteered by these trail supporters.

Many of the above volunteered their time on the last Saturday in June for the annual “Tacos for the Trail and Village Fun Ride” event that was held (with social distancing and masks). Although proceeds were down, we were delighted we were even able to hold the event. Next year, we are planning a larger event to include participation by running and cycling clubs and local bicycle shops.

Also during the Summer of 2020, some fundraising would normally have taken place during Pentwater’s craft fairs and at the William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail. However, in an abundance of caution, the board chose not to do so.

I am happy to report that the Fall of 2020 has been very productive! Planning for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) section of the trail in Hart has been able to proceed. We are very grateful to Lynn Ladder Hart City Manager, for agreeing to take the lead. She obtained approval from her board to be the applicant. The Public Hearing is scheduled for January 12th, 2021 and application for this grant of $400,000 will be made on February 1, 2021.

Looking toward 2021, the focus will be on meeting all requirements to apply for the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). The goal is to make a grant application in October of 2021.

As always, your support is much-needed and is always and appreciated. Should you also wish to continue your support through your estate, please contact me. Only with your help, will this trail be a reality.

Thank you for your continued support,

Claudia Ressel-Hodan

President, Friends of the Pentwater Hart Trail

Please make checks out to:

Friends of the Pentwater Hart Trail

PO Box 228

Pentwater MI 49449