

Wabash Cannonball Corridor Coordinating Committee

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Buehner Center, Oak Openings Preserve Metropark

MINUTES

I. Introductions; review of agenda; approval of 2016 notes

Introductions were made.

An addition to the agenda was requested: Proposed memorial at the NW corner of the trail and Providence-Neapolis-Swanton. NORTA would like to establish a small memorial shelter to honor the late Walt Kruse. The structure envisioned is a 12' by 12' timber frame roof on a concrete pad, with one table. Steve Spitler recommended a written request be submitted to his attention so that he can take it to the Lucas County Board of Commissioners. It would also be expected that Metroparks might play a role in installing and maintain the structure.

Steve Spitler made a motion to approve the 2016 minutes. Steven Pilcher seconded the motion. All approved.

II. Election of Chair

Joe Fausnaugh was nominated as chair and elected unanimously.

III. Financial matters

2016	\$3,293
2015	\$3,285
2014	\$3,408
2013	\$3,419

IV. Reports (photos welcome)

A. Wauseon *Tom Hall*

Jay Budde offered a brief report on behalf of Wauseon. He shared that ET Rover Pipeline is working in the area and has been driving bulldozers on the trail. This has caused surface damage to the trail between Fulton county roads 21 and 22. This has been reported to Wauseon as owner of that section. Jay noted that there are 3 pipeline construction projects set to occur this summer.

B. NORTA *Jay Budde*

Jay Budde presented a map developed by MVPO showing the locations and details for 7 to 8 signs along the trail. NORTA plans to build and maintain the signs. NORTA is applying to the Active Transportation program for a grant for kiosks with the assistance of Montpelier and Poggemeyer Design Group. Montpelier is very supportive of bike route activity and is looking to pursue a \$700,000 connector path project in the next few years.

The extension project on the south fork should be constructed during summer of 2017 due in part to a Clean Ohio Trail Fund award. The group hopes to create a parking areas at the end of

the trail in Liberty Center. It was recommended that Max Fetterman be informed of the Wabash Coordinating Committee meetings and that he or another village representative be invited to the meetings going forward.

C. Metroparks *Joe Fausnaugh*

Metroparks is applying for TAP funds to extend by 6 miles the North Fork. Future plans call for applying again in a later funding round for the next 4 miles. Brief updates on construction of the Chessie Circle Trail in Toledo, and the Single Tran Trail at Oak Openings were provided. Both are set to open in May. Notably, the first 6 miles of the single track trail has been built with over 1,000 hours of volunteer labor. A connector between Secor Park and Wire Grass Park includes nearly two miles of crushed aggregate and concrete boardwalk over wetlands areas. The perimeter trail at Blue Creek near Whitehouse is also under construction. Finally, Metroparks is developing Howard Marsh near Bono, OH, and creating 5 miles of trails on top of dikes. This facility will also include 6 miles of water trails.

D. Lucas County *Steve Spitler; Ron Myers*

Steve Spitler shared an update from Ron Myers. The Lucas County Engineer will be doing sign upgrades in 2017. A rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) will be installed at the North Fork and Black Road near Monclova Elementary school.

E. Maumee *John Jezak*

Maumee is pleased to see so much activity with connections to the trail and the more recent extensions of it.

F. Whitehouse *Steven Pilcher*

Whitehouse just installed a connector between the Blue Creek Conservation Area and the Whitehouse Square. The village is considering push button flashing signs for the trail crossings in the village.

V. Development / Connectivity / Management Issues

A. Equestrian Use and Restrictions

NORTA receives regular inquiries regarding equestrian use on the trail, where is it permitted and where is it prohibited. It was pointed out that one of the 4 symbols on the NORTA logo is a horse and that this group of users has been helpful over the years. Horses are permitted where the berms are wide enough to permit horse riding and that riding should occur on the berms not on the pavement. As extensions are constructed it may be helpful to keep horse riders in mind when clearing brush. Similarly, when installing signage owners need to account for horse traffic.

B. Signage

Wayfinding signage physically located along the trail could be helpful for letting trail users know when food, restrooms, bike shops, and fixit stations are nearby.

Another option is an interactive online map, or even a smart phone app to highlight the same information. Both paper and electronic versions would be useful for different types of users. The consensus emerged that this would be a good area to focus on going forward.

VI. Other business

None.

VII. Next meeting date and proposed agenda items

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018, 3:00 p.m.

Location: City of Maumee, 400 Conant St., 2nd floor conference room