

Cass River Greenway Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2018
Vassar City Office 1:00 – 3:00 PM

NPS Water Trail Designation Project/Website Update

Progress on the National Parks Service Water Trail Designation project continues. UM Flint is nearing completion of the new, updated water trail section maps, kiosk maps and ancillary kiosk panels. The Greenway Collaborative Inc. has been contracted to design our new Cass River WaterTrail web site and is making good progress.

2018 Canoe the Cass with Tom

Outdoor writer Tom Lounsbury attended the meeting and talked about his first two trips down the Cass River. The first was from Cass City to Chippewa Park, Caro. The second was from Indianfields Park, Caro to Vassar.

Tom is planning the third trip from Vassar to Heritage Park, Frankenmuth for Saturday, June 9, launching from Downtown Vassar at 8:00 am. The fourth trip is scheduled for Sunday, June 10, launching from Downtown Frankenmuth at 9:00 am and paddling to Davis Park, Bridgeport.

The last trip from M-13 Cass River Boat Launch to Wickes Park, Saginaw will occur sometime in July.

Interested paddlers are welcome to accompany Tom. For more information contact Tom at tlounsburyoutdoors@gmail.com or 989-872-2398.

2018 Paddle and Swim – June 23

Bill Zehnder reported that this year's 7th Annual Paddle and Swim event between Vassar and Tuscola and Frankenmuth will be held on Saturday, June 23. Paddlers will leave Vassar at 7:00 am, Tuscola at 9:30 am, and swimmers will leave the 9000 block of Ormes Road at 9:00 am.

The participants will gather at Heritage Park about noon for refreshments and fellowship.

T-shirts will be available for a modest fee. If interested in participating or a t-shirt contact Lori at 989-652-9941 or bzehnder@bavarianinn.com.

2018 Tri-Bavaria Triathlon – August 4 & 5

Bill Zehnder advises that a major triathlon will be held in Downtown Frankenmuth on Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5. Saturday's events

will involve youth events and Sunday will feature the formal triathlon events.

Volunteers will be needed. Volunteers can contact Bill at bzehnder@bavarianinn.com.

For more information see info@3disciplines.com/tribavaria.

August 17 – 19 The Great Lakes Rendezvous

Bill Wheeler reported this event will be held in Davis Park, Bridgeport Township. It will be the 36th annual gathering hosted by The Great Lakes Historical and Educational Association. Visit

www.greatlakeshea.weebly.com for more information.

2018 River Cleanup – August 18

Dennis McCabe and Nancy Barrios reported on a plan to clean the river downstream from our 2017 Cass City area cleanup. The Kappan Tree Service located at Hurds Corner, 2799 South Hurds Corner Road, will provide the headquarters site. River sections and put-in and take-out access sites have been identified.

Volunteers will meet at Kappan Tree Service between 8:00 and 8:30 am for breakfast and orientation. The clean up will begin at 9:00 am and conclude by noon.

See www.cassriver.org and click on the Events tab for more information.

Bridgeport Launches and Trail Head Grand Opening

Bill Wheeler reported that the Davis Park launch is operational while the Hoffmann Community Park launch remains closed. Some installation issues need to be resolved before the floating dock is installed and the park opened. A Grand Opening event will be held in June or July to highlight the new Davis Park Launch, the Hoffmann Community Park Launch and the Trailhead site modifications.

Log Jam

A large log jam has been reported to be downstream of Bridgeport between Davis Park and the M-13 Boat Launch (near the Bridgeport Waste Water Treatment Plant). Portage around the log jam is not a viable option. Bill Wheeler has begun to investigate. To date, the cost estimates to remove and dispose of the logs run \$20,000 or more. A MDEQ permit has been issued for removal.

We are looking at alternatives and funding. Ideas/suggestions welcome.

319 Implementation Grant – Livestock/Manure Management

Mike Boike reported that the project timeline has been extended to later this year. Twenty high value sites have been identified for consideration. To date, owner receptivity to this project has been low. Mike and the team will continue contacting owners and promoting the project.

Caine Road Kiosk

Russ Fall reported he is ready to issue a purchase order for the kiosk stand (thanks to support from Vassar Township and Saginaw Bay WIN). When UM Flint completes design work, the remaining panels and the kiosk stand will be ordered.

New WaterTrail Brochure

Jeanna Rogner, Premier Promotions Graphic Design/Marketing, has begun design work on a new, updated Cass River WaterTrail Brochure. This was made possible with grants from The Scollon Family Foundation and Saginaw Bay WIN. We hope to have new brochures available in a month or so.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 1:00 – 3:00PM
At the Vassar City Office

Bob Zeilinger
June 8, 2018