

SPECIAL MEETING

Mecosta Township Board

19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI.

March 12, 2019/ unapproved minutes

Prepared by Lois Brennan, Mecosta Township Clerk

1. Supervisor Michele Graham, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm
2. **Pledge to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call** – Michele Graham, Lois Brennan, Mary Quinlan, James Cain – all present. John Johnson- absent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda** – Motion made by Mary Quinlan to accept agenda James Cain 2nd. All – aye. Motion carried. Record reflects John Johnson joined the meeting at 5:32pm.
5. **New Business-**
 - A. **Michigan Department of Natural Recourses Trust Fund Grant - A** \$300,000.00 Grant is available for Mecosta Township with matching funds being donated by Freemont Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the purposes of development of The Dragon, a mountain bike/walking path that will stretch over 47 miles along the Muskegon River on Consumers Energy Property. The portion of the trail that extends into Mecosta Township will be developed with the Grant Monies. There will be no monies coming from the Mecosta Township budget for this trail. Total Grant will be \$500,00.00
 1. **Comments-** Two representatives from Morton Township whom are members of the Mid- Michigan Trails Association and Silver Spokes of Mecosta County Bike Club Mr. Art Diehm and Mr. Gene Sperry, spoke and presented Mecosta Townships Board with a letter of gratitude and support on behalf of Morton Township by Mr. Dick Wheeler. Mr. Diehm went on to also explain their interest in The Dragon Trail, as they are currently developing trails in hopes of one day connecting to The White Pine Trail.

Residents of Mecosta Township, Mrs. Larisa Draves, Mr. Ken Draves and Mr. Mike Stegewan were also in attendance of the meeting. Their questions were centered largely on a map of The Dragon, and how/where the trail would come across 8 Mile Rd.

Connie Koepke was also in attendance and spoke on behalf of the Convention of Visitors Bureau voicing their support of Mecosta Township to approve the Grant process for development of The Dragon trail, sighting the importance of future economic development for Mecosta County as a whole.

There was quiet a lot of discussion between attendees and Board members, questions and answers and location to find more information regarding The Dragon Trail.

2. **Discussion Twp. Board-** Board Members discussed thoughts from our Planning Commission as they are trying to develop parks within the Township.
3. **3.Resolution-** Clerk Lois Brennan read into record the drafted 2019-005 Resolution, resolving that Mecosta Township authorizes submission of the MDNR Trust Fund Application for \$300,000.00 and make available a local match through financial commitment and donation of \$200,000.00 of a total \$500,000.00 project cost during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Motion in the form of Resolution 2019-005 made by James Cain, Mary Quinlan 2nd. Roll Call: James Cain – yes, Mary Quinlan – yes, John Johnson – yes, Lois Brennan – yes, Michele Graham – yes. Motion carried.

6. Brief Public Comment- Nothing further was heard.

7. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Mary Quinlan at 5:51pm. James Cain 2nd. All aye, motion carried.