



Vision: To connect Linden, Argentine, Fenton and Fenton Township communities with non-motorized pathways.

Chairman – Ron Stack

Secretary – Shannon Brant

Vice Chairman - Denny Dunfield

Treasurer – Lisa Wismer

June 15, 2016

RE: Fenton Township – Public Hearing for Non-Motorized Pathways

ALL:

Fenton Township Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 20 at 7:30 PM at the township hall to consider the development of non-motorized pathways within their township area. This public hearing is very critical to the effort of establishing non-motorized pathway development in all of our southern Genesee County communities. Yes, the plan and public hearing is for the township, BUT ALL non-motorized pathways that will extend from the City of Linden and City of Fenton to Grand Blanc, Mundy Township, Swartz Creek, Argentine Township and to other outlying areas must go through Fenton Township. Fenton Township is the causeway to the rest of the world. Pathways cannot connect to these other areas without going through the township. In order to qualify for grant funds the township needs to have an adopted and approved plan in accordance with our state law. We need to consider the township as a key spoke in this regional non-motorized planning effort for both the development of recreational pathways and the acquiring of grant funds for development. Without a plan in Fenton Township, all other local communities could suffer losses in available grant funds.

Michigan and Genesee County have a growing network of non-motorized pathways including the State of Michigan non-motorized trail, The Iron Belle, which will run through Atlas, Goodrich, Grand Blanc, Burton and Flint. Sections of this network are already in place.

Local park and recreation/non-motorized plans contain content from public hearings and have goals, objectives and budgets established which direct the future actions of a community and the state government. The plans need to satisfy the demands and wants of the local residents, identified through public hearings, and to provide safe and quality non-motorized travel ways for the public (children, seniors, families, handicapped and visitors) who live in and enjoy our local communities.

The input from the local public as to where they would like to run, walk, roller blade, bicycle and “be active” on non-motorized pathways is critical to a plan and is required by state law. Just having the public attend a meeting to say they are tired of driving to other communities miles away to enjoy the attributes provided by non-motorized pathways is important. Why should our local people drive miles to enjoy safe recreational activities and spend their money in other communities? Let’s keep our money here at home and let residents from other communities spend their money in our communities!

Individuals, families, visitors, and businesses will enjoy benefits of access to non-motorized pathways that promotes outdoor recreation, better health, environmental preservation and observation, positive economic development and generally an improved quality of life.

Pathways can lead to healthier and more enjoyable lifestyles. They provide opportunities for social interactions with family, friends, other community members, and visitors. Finally, pathways can provide an avenue for safe, alternative transportation, serve the handicapped population and connect community attributes such as neighborhoods, schools, parks and businesses. They also lead to improved business activity and employment.

- Home values increase
- Homes sell quicker
- Business grows
- New business develops
- Total community net worth increases
- Health of those living in trail communities improves
- Tourism increases
- Tax base goes up

Pathways are an important part of creating a quality community in which to work, live, play and visit.

PLEASE ATTEND THE JUNE 20th MEETING TO CONVEY YOUR DESIRES AND WANTS RELATED TO NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS. PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. THIS OPPORTUNITY WILL NOT BE BACK FOR 5 MORE YEARS.

I have never met an unhappy person on a pathway so let's go out and make more happy people!
Let's "put it on the ground".

Victor Lukasavitz, Chair Government Relations Committee
LAFF Pathways Inc.