

TO: Hamburg Township Board of Trustees

FROM: Deby Henneman, Township Coordinator

DATE: June 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM TOPIC: Story Walk on The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail at the Village Trailhead

Supporting Documents:

- **MOU for Great Start Collaborative Story Walk**
- **Project Estimates for Excavating (at table)**
- **Concept Plan for Village Trailhead**
- **Concept Plan for West Park Improvements**

Requested Action

Motion to direct Supervisor to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with Great Start Collaborative for installation of Story Walk systems within Hamburg Township, currently planned for the Village Trailhead and planned improvements in Manly Bennett Park (TF #22-0107).

Motion to approve a gravel expansion of the Village Trailhead parking along with an ADA compliant limestone pathway to install a permanent Story Walk system, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

Background

In early 2023, when preparing for the Spark Grant application for the trailhead restroom project, we were approached by Livingston County United Way to gauge interest in a story walk within our park system. A conceptual drawing (attached) was created for the Village Trailhead which included the proposed story walk, and since we have been approached by Great Start Livingston with a proposed 2nd story walk. The second location in Manly Bennett Park was suggested to be included in the “Park within a Park” concept being worked on for the MDNR Grant, which is due to be complete by summer 2025. A draft concept of the plan has been included in the packet and is still being finalized.

The story boards are a donation; however, some staffing costs and a small amount of materials should be anticipated, along with funding for the pathway. It was the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Committee that the Story Walk not be installed along the Lakelands Trail proper due to safety concerns. It was recommended we find areas where the project could be placed along a secondary pathway.

The proposed project will expand the existing parking at the Village Trailhead by adding an area of 115'x 62' to allow for double-sided parking which is greatly needed. The parking lot is over used and people

currently park on the grassy area beyond the concrete barricades where the gravel lot is proposed. This project also includes an ADA compliant limestone pathway 6' wide by 220' long which will provide the infrastructure for future development as proposed, and to accommodate the proposed story walk.

The story walk panels will be permanently installed with the help of our staff, and maintained by the donor groups. The Park and Recreation Committee is in full support of this project, as is the Hamburg Community Library.

The Memorandum of Understanding is required in order to proceed with this project.

Bids for the excavation of the parking lot will be provided at the meeting and these improvements are necessary even without the proposed story walk. This project supports the vision of the Planning and Zoning Department as well, especially considering the projects that have been granted preliminary site plan approval by the board which are within walking distance of the trailhead.

Motion by Parks & Recreation made at their 4/30/24 Meeting:

Motion by Muck, supported by Auxier, to support the concept/vision of a Story Walk at the Village Trailhead, and to request that the Park Coordinator speak to the donor to gauge the feasibility of installing the 2nd reading trail in Manly Bennett Park – West, to be incorporated in the “Park within a Park” project and to confirm the Memorandum of Understanding language prior to presenting final proposal to the board.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes: 5

MOTION CARRIED