

**RESOLUTION 05-2023**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE "BERRIEN COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN"**

At a regular meeting of the Berrien Township Board, Berrien County, Michigan on January 10, 2023.

Present: Bryan Bixby, Paul Sprung, Julie Burke, Cynthia Layman, Kevin Klug, Mary Jane Dean

Absent: Harold Bishop

The following resolution was offered by Cynthia Layman and supported by Julie Burke.

**WHEREAS**, Berrien Township is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for citizens throughout the region and recognizes that a network of trails in Berrien County will contribute greatly to quality of life by connecting people, communities and regional assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Berrien County Trails with its partners and steering committee has engaged Berrien County municipalities, the County and its residents in the development of a countywide master plan for trails; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" presents a county-wide vision and recommends increasing cooperation and collaboration to create a network that will provide transportation, exercise, leisure, safety, accessibility, recreation and community benefits aimed at enhancing the quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, many communities, agencies, and trail advocates in the region have taken a lead in planning and/or building local trails, and those efforts can be greatly enhanced by being connected to a larger regional network of trails; and

**WHEREAS**, trails will help improve the quality of the air we breathe by promoting reduced congestion through increasing safer non-motorized transportation options; and

**WHEREAS**, trails are freely accessible community assets offering opportunities for transportation, recreation and exercise to everyone, including children, youth and families, schools and provide safe places for people to experience a sense of community and create stronger social and family ties; and

**WHEREAS**, trails have significant impact on the health and economic viability of the region through encouraging active lifestyles, increased levels of tourism, enhanced property values, added jobs related to the construction of and along the trail, as well as enhanced ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" provides the foundation for a long term strategy that will continue to grow and evolve and will provide an invaluable resources for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Berrien Township has identified the provision of trails as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the region.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that Berrien Township is committed to the promotion and continued development of the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" and in concept to working with neighboring communities to plan, design, build and maintain a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come.

**Be it further resolved** that Berrien Township will incorporate the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" into our master plan, recreation plan and other relevant planning documents.

ADOPTED: January 10, 2023

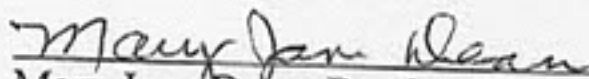
YEAS: Cynthia Layman, Julie Burke, Paul Sprung, Kevin Klug, Bryan Bixby,  
Mary Jane Dean

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Harold Bishop

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN

I, the undersigned and duly elected Clerk of Berrien Township, Berrien County, Michigan DO HEARBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete representation of the certain proceedings conducted by Supervisor Bryan Bixby at a meeting held on January 10, 2023.

  
Mary Jane Dean, Berrien Township Clerk