



MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Township Board, Manager Kangas

FROM: Jason McCarthy – Planning & Zoning Administrator

DATE: April 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) E-Bike Inquiry

In recent years, e-bikes (or electronically assisted bicycles) have become increasingly popular in the Marquette area and across the United States.

In an effort to try and remain ahead of ever-changing technology and public perception of e-bikes, NTN has developed a statement on the matter, in which they would appreciate support for. As a point of reference, all other impacted landowners (communities) where NTN operates have provided NTN with the liberty of addressing how their trails are used and what forms of transportation may be allowed on them. In other words, the other local municipalities in the area have deferred to NTN as to how they'd prefer to handle the matter.

As you review the attached statement from NTN, you will notice three (3) different classifications of e-bikes. Class 1 is a pedal assisted bicycle that travels up to 20 miles per hour. Class 2 is a pedal assist and throttle assist bicycle that also travels up to 20 mile per hour. In addition, Class 3 is a throttled bicycle that travels up to 28 miles per hour. Throughout the state, Class 1 e-bikes are allowed on paved roads and pathways but not necessarily allowed on natural surfaces designated for non-motorized use. *The state regulation has left it up to agents who manage properties to designate use of e-bikes on these trails.*

Review Recommendation

Staff is recommending that the Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, and Township Board each pass a motion to, *“support NTN's policy to allow only Class 1 e-bikes to be used on the majority of NTN trails for recreational use in Marquette Township.”*