

# HERITAGE ROUTE ALCONA COUNTY

July 13, 2006  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Karen Sanderson, Chairperson; Dan Mullen, DNR; Ken Timm, Alcona County; Jack Guy, Visioning; Bethany Styer, Alcona County EDC; Art Laatz, Treasurer; Marlena MacNeill, Alcona County Road Commission, Roger Carlin, Alcona Township, Mary Gillies, LAMP.

Denise Cline, NEMCOG

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.

***Motion by Art Laatz,, support by Dan Mullen to accept the minutes of June 15, 2006. Motion carried.***

Denise Cline will send copies of the minutes to Art Laatz to put on the Alcona County Heritage Route website.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

There were no changes in the balance of \$145.43.

***Motion by Art Laatz, support by Jack Guy, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.***

## **Nonmotorized Pathway:**

Karen thanked Dan Mullen for doing an excellent job at the public hearing held on June 29. The committee felt that there was a good cross-section of people there to give input on the idea of a trail and the feasibility study. 58 people showed up for the public hearing. Rick Deuell, from NEMCOG, spoke at the meeting. In addition, Kevin Schaedig from MDOT attended. Bethany Styer recorded minutes. Most of the attending public supported the idea of a feasibility study to determine the route of the proposed trail system. There were several audience members (6) who vocalized their opposition to the entire concept of a trail. Dan Mullen noted in the committee meeting that getting 2 – 3 sections of trail in place in the next 10 years would be great. The process of developing a trail doesn't happen quickly.

Many concerns voiced at the public hearing dealt with snowmobiles using the trail. The group discussed the positioning of barriers to deter snowmobile access. The group needs to keep stressing to the public that nothing has been decided as to trail location. That is what the study is for. More public hearings will be held as the study progresses. The group discussed handicap vehicle access as well as golf carts. The snowmobile barrier would deter golf carts from accessing the trail, however it must be kept accessible to handicap vehicles. The group discussed the need for research to show the effect of a trail system on adjacent property values. Also, the

dangers of traveling along roads without a trail were discussed at the public hearing by a bicyclist that had been hit three times.

Denise Cline informed the group that Richard Bayus has resigned from NEMCOG, therefore Rick Deuell and Diane Rekowski are now working on submitting the grant to MDOT for funding for the feasibility study.

Dan Mullen spoke about the fact that, as the feasibility study process progresses, it increases the chances of Harrisville State Park getting grant dollars for a trail through the park. Those grant dollars could then be used as matching funds for an MDOT Enhancement grant for trail construction along the Heritage Route. The committee briefly discussed the effect that winter will have on the completion of the study.

### **Heritage Route Management Council**

**Amendment to Management Plan** – A request to include areas east of US 23 in the Heritage Route will be addressed at the next Management Council on September 7 at 10:00 at the Alpena County Annex. Karen Sanderson and Marlena MacNeill are the Alcona County representatives on the Management Council.

*Motion by Marlena MacNeill, support by Jack Guy, to seek approval for Ken Timm and Dan Mullen to be appointed as alternate representatives for Alcona County on the Heritage Route Management Council. Motion passed.*

### **Updates:**

**Motorcycle Rally** – Everything is still being finalized for the motorcycle rally. Registration is expected to be 3,000 - 6,000. Sponsorships are still being sold – contact Jay Jacobs of Consumers Power. A synopsis of events in each community will be provided to registrants.

**Alpena News** – It was noted that an ad was placed in the Alpena News showing the Heritage Route and places to visit along it. However, the term “Heritage Route” wasn’t used.

**State Parks** – Dan Mullen discussed the formation of new State Park at Rockport. He also talked about the planning process that will be undertaken in Rockport, Thompson’s Harbor and Negwegon. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Marine Sanctuary building.

**There will be no August meeting of the Alcona County Heritage Route Team.**

**Next Meeting – September 14 at 9:00 AM.**

*Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.*