

HERITAGE ROUTE - ALCONA COUNTY

September 13, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Present: Karen Sanderson, Chairperson; Dan Mullen, Harrisville State Park; Art Laatz, Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce; Ken Timm, Alcona County; Bethany Styer; Marlena MacNeill, Alcona County Road Commission; and Denise Cline, NEMCOG.

Motion by Art Laatz, supported by Marlena MacNeill, to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2007, meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report –There were no changes in the balance of \$145.43.

Motion by Dan Mullen, supported by Marlena MacNeill, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Harrisville Trail: Karen reported that the posts are all in. Art Laatz and Dick Stover used a power auger to install the posts. Karen has already sent a thank you gift. One post has already been stolen. The posts were not set in cement. Cross pieces are now being installed. Signage is complete up to Main Street. Brochures were printed by Model Printing who printed an additional 2,000 free for being allowed to place a small advertisement on them. So, a total of 3,000 brochures were printed. Denise Cline reported on the problems exporting the brochure to the color scheme used by Model Printing. It took many exports to finally get the color scheme correct. The wooden brochure holders with Plexiglas fronts have been constructed. After all signs have been installed, the post tops will be cut off at an angle. Goodrich will pave the path for the city. There will be a slight curve in the path. The city approved \$4,500 for the path because they have to spend a portion of their street funds for this type of project over a specified period of time. One resident is upset about the path and has made threats.

Karen reported that the Garden Club might possibly take on the trailhead as a project. A discussion occurred about maintaining the plantings. Other volunteer groups exist which might maintain the area such as the Boy Scouts or the Honor Society.

Total expenses for the project fell \$83.58 short of the budgeted amount. The Chamber of Commerce has put in the balance of the money.

Reports:

- Dan Mullen gave a report on Harrisville State Park.
 - They are currently removing hazardous trees from the State Park.
 - He also reported that the State has applied for a grant to purchase property on the old stagecoach route. 390 acres has been offered to the State. This could open up some land for trail options.
 - The Hunter's Education 2-day course was a huge success.

- Ken Timm reported on the September Management Council meeting.
 - Arenac County – Depot dedication, bandshell, snow train, casino.
 - Iosco County – Alabaster Trail, snowmobile trail connector, airport.
 - Multi-use trails seem to be becoming a priority for the region. Denise Cline noted that the northeast regional trail study will be beginning soon by Nico Tucker, Transportation Planner for NEMCOG.

- Mary Ann Heidemann has resigned from Arenac County and will be the Regional Land Use Specialist for MSU Extension in Alpena.
- Bethany Styer updated the group:
 - US 23 Heritage Route Management Plan – the group should look at tasks that have been accomplished and update the plan.
 - Community Action Plan – she presented the Alcona County Community Action Plan. A meeting will occur tentatively on October 18. The Heritage Route is included in the Action Plan and the Alcona County Heritage Route Team has been identified as a partner. The goal is for the EDC to support the work of the Alcona County Team.
 - The REDAC Committee has become a more active group in economic development. The Alcona County Heritage Route Team should discuss what should be included about the Heritage Trail in the CEDS Report (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy).
 - The Sustainable Design Assessment has been completed which makes suggestions for economic development in our natural resource-based lifestyle. Creating a walkable community (alternative transportation) is included.
- Denise Cline
 - Denise would like to take what was done with the Harrisville Trail brochure and build on that to develop some more promotional materials. Maps should be made highlighting recreation points (public and private) along US 23. These maps, photos, etc. should be put on the website to promote activities and sites on the Heritage Route. GIS data is already available on business locations. The website should be designed to allow users to click on a business and pull up information about it, photos, and a link to the businesses website. Art Laatz spoke about the current website needing revamping. He also discussed whether the business information that is currently on both the Heritage Route and the Chamber of Commerce website is a duplication of effort. Denise Cline suggested letting her take a couple of months to develop a prototype website with all of the mapping features discussed using Alcona County as an example. She will put it up on NEMCOG's website for the group to view. This prototype could be used for the other counties as well. Denise will also send Art a PDF of the trail brochure.

Motion by Bethany Styer, supported by Karen Sanderson, to direct Art Laatz to immediately remove the meeting notes from the County Commissioners meetings from the US 23 Heritage Route website. Motion passed.

- Denise also updated the group on the Maritime Heritage Trail idea being proposed by the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve as a possible Heritage Route project. The project involves informational kiosks (indoor and outdoor), web-based information, and access improvements throughout the coastline of Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle Counties. Dan Mullen noted that the old park residence across from park headquarters could be a potential site for indoor displays.

Next meeting: October 25, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.