

# **HERITAGE ROUTE - ALCONA COUNTY**

**February 14, 2008**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Karen Sanderson (Chairperson); Dan Mullen (Harrisville State Park); Art Laatz (Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce); Ken Timm (Alcona County); Marlina MacNeill (Alcona County Road Commission), Ken Gauthier (Sanborn Township), and Denise Cline (NEMCOG).

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

**Motion by Marlina MacNeill, supported by Ken Timm, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2007, meeting. Motion passed.**

## **Trail:**

Karen Sanderson noted that she was supposed to contact the railroad to begin discussions of a trail along the active rail line, but she has not yet contacted them due to illness.

## **Heritage Route Website:**

Karen Sanderson also noted that she spoke with Tom Ferguson of Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association about the two websites being developed. The next Management Council meeting is on February 20, 2008 at the Alcona County EMS Facility on M-72. The website discussion will be on the agenda. The Sunrise Side Travel Association is updating their website at the cost of \$75,000. The Association covers the entire northeast Michigan region, while the website being developed by the county teams and NEMCOG covers only the US 23 corridor. The group discussed the benefits of both websites. The Heritage Route website being developed by the county teams and NEMCOG will provide a useful tool with very specific information about all tourism-related businesses and sites along the US 23 corridor. The group discussed the possibility of having links between the two websites in order to benefit them both.

The team discussed where the site would be hosted. Currently, it is being developed as a part of NEMCOG's website, but it would not necessarily have to remain there. It could be beneficial for the website to have its own domain name. Denise Cline noted that she would like to see each county have password-protected access to their own pages in order to do their own updates any time they would like.

The group discussed the need to have as many members of the Management Council as possible at the next Management Council meeting in order to gather support for a Heritage Route website which is developed and updated at the county team level. Members from the East Central region will also be contacted.

Denise Cline printed some large maps which show the location of businesses along US 23 in Alcona County. She noted that the business coordinates were obtained from a third-party vendor, so they are not highly accurate. But the maps do give the team a beginning point. She will update the maps as the team makes corrections.

**Trail:**

Dan Mullen noted that there is a guide wire from a utility pole which could pose a hazard to the paved section of the Harrisville Trail. He also noted that small stop signs need to be placed at the intersection of the trail and the street. Karen Sanderson will determine who the pole belongs to in order to contact them about the wire. She also indicated that stop signs will be placed in the correct locations.

The group discussed the Alabaster Trail and noted that it seemed a similar thing could be done along US 23 in Alcona County. The team feels that either the railroad corridor or the US 23 corridor are still the best options for the trail rather than obtaining easements across private property.

**Non-motorized Trail Meeting:**

A meeting is being held in Alcona County to discuss non-motorized trail locations. The meeting is part of the regional non-motorized trail planning process being done by NEMCOG. The meeting will take place on March 13, 2008 at the Alcona County EMS Facility on M-72. There will be two duplicate sessions beginning at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

**Harrisville State Park:**

Dan Mullen distributed a draft flyer advertising that there are cabin rentals at Harrisville State Park in the winter. He also demonstrated a draft PowerPoint presentation that could possibly be part of the Harrisville State Park website. The PowerPoint highlights the amenities of the park through numerous photos.

**Sanborn Township:**

Ken Gauthier noted that the grant application for the Sanborn Township streetscape and trail will go before MDOT in March.

**Website:**

Art Laatz asked Denise Cline to add some text to the draft website indicating that it is still under construction.

**Next meeting: April 10, 2008 at 9:00 am at the Sunrise Cabin at Harrisville State Park (if the cabin is not reserved).**

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.