

**HERITAGE ROUTE - ALCONA COUNTY**  
**September 11, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Motion by Marlana MacNeill, supported by Marcia Simmons, to approve the minutes of the June 12 , 2008, meeting. Motion passed.**

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

**Alcona Trail:**

Karen Sanderson has spoken with Scott Thayer from MDOT. There is nothing to report on the proposed trail north of Harrisville. Federal funding for MDOT is uncertain. Summer road work is being completed. Scott has reviewed the Heritage Route brochures and indicated that they look good.

**Management Council:**

Karen updated the group about the activities of the Sunrise Coalition which is a group that met to discuss marketing the coastal communities as a package. The Alcona Committee felt that the structure of the Heritage Route should remain intact. Karen Sanderson has spoken with Tom Ferguson about the lack of Management Council meetings since the spring of 2008. Tom indicated that he would schedule a Management Council meeting in October. Karen also stated to Tom that she would like a NEMCOG representative to attend.

**Harrisville Heritage Route Trail:**

Signage is needed to direct users down the new paved path as well as down Jefferson Street. The sign maker has gone out of business. One sign has been stolen while another is bent. Dan Mullen noted that he needs additional Harrisville Heritage Route brochures for the State Park. The group discussed the possibility of applying for more grant funding to put up more signage and print more brochures.

Discussion occurred concerning the trail through Harrisville State Park and the possibility of the trail exiting onto Huron Shore Drive. A trail could be designated from Huron Shore Drive to US 23. Karen Sanderson will draft a letter to Harrisville Township and the Alcona County Road Commission to see if there is any opposition or any problems with designating Huron Shore Drive as part of the Harrisville Heritage Route Trail.

***Motion by Art Laatz, supported by Dan Mullen, to designate Huron Shore Drive south of Harrisville State Park to US 23 as part of the Harrisville Heritage Route Trail. Motion passed.***

Marcia Simmons noted that the public should be notified about the possibility of the trail designation. Karen will submit the information to the newspaper.

**NEMCOG Heritage Route Activities:**

Denise Cline discussed the next year's work plan with the group. NEMCOG and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary have formed a partnership in order to provide mapping services

to the Sanctuary. In addition, the agencies can work together to develop the Heritage Route and the Maritime Heritage Trail in coordination. Denise has researched a grant program aimed at interpreting America's historic places which could provide funding for the development of interpretation along the route. She will work in coordination with the Marine Sanctuary to develop a grant application which will address needs for the Maritime Heritage Trail as well as the Heritage Route.

The group reviewed some maps of Appalachia which had a format that Denise suggested be used for the regional Heritage Route map. The maps were done by National Geographic, but the same type of publication could be created by NEMCOG. The group agreed that the maps would be a good format for the Heritage Route map. The group discussed the need for consistency in naming, signage, and logo along the route.

Website business information forms have been being collected all summer as a result of the newspaper article highlighting the website. Denise will look into funding to purchase the website software. Again, the similar needs of the Maritime Heritage Trail and the Heritage Route could result in software being purchased jointly and used for both.

The group reviewed the Alcona County brochure and made minor changes. Marcia Simmons will obtain the last missing photo for the brochure. The group also reviewed the colors being used for the re-print of the MDOT Non-Motorized Trail Map.

Denise has also completed a map of the Alcona County Quilt Trail which could be incorporated into the regional map format.

The Heritage Route Conference is being held from September 23-25 in Traverse City. NEMCOG is presenting at the conference. The conference is free of charge.

**Other:**

- Ken Gauthier announced that Sanborn Township's MDOT grant application is being reviewed again this month.
- Bill Sanders approached the group with an idea that Harrisville should organize events to celebrate the National Day of the American Cowboy. A rodeo could be held in the area. He was given several contacts in the county to follow up with about the idea.
- The group discussed the location of the trailhead near the harbor. The Garden Club is still planning on improving the trailhead with a bench and plantings.
- The group discussed the process of re-nominating members to the Management Council.
- Dan Mullen: Hunter's Education this weekend at Harrisville State Park.
- Marlina MacNeill: Updated the group on the Leadership Program.

**Next meeting: October 9 or 16, 2008 at 9:00 am** *(date is dependent upon the scheduling of a Management Council meeting).*

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.