

Alpena County Heritage Route Team Meeting Notes

Date: 10-25-05

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Alpena City Hall – City Council Chambers

Present: Denise Cline (NEMCOG), Deb Pardike (Alpena CVB), Rich Sullenger (City of Alpena), Greg Sundin (City of Alpena), Doug Vam (Sanborn Township), Bud Wegmeyer (Alpena County).

A brief discussion occurred stating that, while Heritage Route projects in other counties have been mostly citizen-led, Alpena County has been led by government/institutional initiative. Cline explained that money has become available from MDOT through NEMCOG to provide technical assistance to the counties teams.

The team discussed their priority project being the creation of a Welcome Center at Mich-e-ki-wis Park. There has been support for the investigation of the project from the City Council. The Center would contain information to promote the Heritage Route, information about area attractions, photos of the area, etc.

The team discussed the need to be able to fund such a Welcome Center as well as the need to staff it in the long term. Physical improvements are needed such as aesthetic improvements and parking improvements. A site study would need to be completed to determine feasibility, stakeholders, and costs as well as funding opportunities. Information from the Mich-e-ki-wis Master Plan could be used in the feasibility study in combination with other information gathered by NEMCOG. The City of Alpena could provide information for parking improvements, but an independent consultant would be needed for an estimate on building improvements. Cline will meet with NEMCOG staff on October 26 to determine if NEMCOG is able to prepare or coordinate the preparation of a feasibility study. Sullenger stated that the City has worked with NEMCOG in the past and that NEMCOG has produced good products at reasonable cost.

The team requested that an MDOT representative be present at the next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for either November 2 at 11:00 or November 3 at 9:00.