

## **Alpena County Heritage Route Team Meeting Notes**

**Date:** 11-2-05

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** Alpena City Hall – City Council Chambers

**Present:** Denise Cline (NEMCOG), Donna Jaskolski (citizen), Lynn Kolasa (DDA), Deb Pardike (Alpena CVB), Kevin Schaedig (MDOT), Rich Sullenger (City of Alpena), Greg Sundin (City of Alpena), Scott Thayer (MDOT), Doug Vam (Sanborn Township), Bud Wegmeyer (Alpena County).

Sundin was chosen to chair the Alpena Heritage Route team. Sundin informed the committee of the possibility of using the architect that is currently doing a study on the civic center to create a design for the welcome center in Mich-e-kis-wis Park. Cline will look into the possibility of using the MDOT grant to NEMCOG to pay for the design or the possibility of applying for a small grant. Sundin stated that the existing contract for the architect could be amended to include the shelter. He also noted that the warming shelter was built using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund so he will check into any restrictions that might be placed on the building.

The committee discussed the need for a common design for Heritage Route facilities. For example, possibly consistent signage could be used to link other welcome centers such as the proposed center in Standish. Pardike discussed the possibility of making the site an interpretive center as well as a welcome center.

The committee discussed the feasibility of getting an MDOT Enhancement Grant for the construction of the welcome center. A possibility exists to include other components of the Mich-e-kis-wis Park Master Plan in the grant application. The committee then discussed the benefits of such a facility to the entire county. Other groups that would have an interest in display space include NOAA and the Besser Museum. In addition, the center would serve as a trailhead for the bi-path system and possible snowmobile parking as well. The committee also discussed options available to staff the center including using volunteers.

The committee will schedule the next meeting after an estimate from the architect is received.