

Alpena County Heritage Route Team Meeting Notes

Date: 1-26-07

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Alpena City Hall

Present: Greg Sundin (City of Alpena), Eric Cline (City of Alpena), Rich Sullenger (City of Alpena), Dennis Bodem, Bev Bodem (Senator Stamas' office), April Lallande (Wilcox & Associates), and Denise Cline (NEMCOG).

Denise Cline relayed a message from Dave Langhorst that, after discussing the Welcome Center project with the appropriate people in Lansing, it was unlikely that funding would be approved through the MDOT Enhancement Program. While a Welcome Center is technically a fundable project, funding more often is given to Welcome Centers that are located in structures with a transportation-related history.

The group discussed historic buildings in Alpena where such a project could be located. However, none seem to be feasible. Also, the group discussed whether the history of Mich-e-ke-wis Park could be a positive factor which could make the project fundable. For example, the park was the site of a winter carnival for which people would be brought into town on a "snow train".

Dave Langhorst (via conference call) explained that the project had to connect in some way to transportation (i.e. in a transportation-related structure such as a depot). Typically Welcome Centers haven't been competitive projects without being located in a building with a transportation history.

Rich Sullenger told the group that the application was complete, but he was uncomfortable submitting it just for the sake of submitting it because the City has been successful obtaining funding in the past, and he didn't want to damage that reputation. Langhorst suggested that the City send the application to him for review and he would speak with Amber Theilan (the north region's representative) about the project. The group discussed the interpretive center aspect of the project which would focus on the transportation history of the Alpena area.

Other funding sources were discussed including the MDNR and the Preserve America program. The Preserve America grant is due Feb. 14, so Eric Cline will call to see if the project is fundable through that program.

Meeting adjourned 3:00.