

Alpena County Heritage Route Team Meeting Notes

Date: 4-9-07

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Alpena City Hall

Present: Greg Sundin (City of Alpena), Eric Cline (City of Alpena), Rich Sullenger (City of Alpena), Jeff Gray (NOAA), Ken Gauthier (Sanborn Township), Doug Vam (Sanborn Township), Marie Twite (Alpena Township), Dave Langhorst (MDOT), and Denise Cline (NEMCOG).

Greg Sundin updated the group on the status of the Welcome Center. Funding through the Transportation Enhancement program is not likely to be obtained due to the lack of a site related to transportation history. In addition, with local government budgets being tight, the feasibility of obtaining a commitment for operating funds from all of the stakeholders seems unlikely. However, he feels that the money spent on the preliminary plans for the Welcome Center was not wasted. The plan can be implemented in the future when a funding source is available. The committee briefly discussed the history of the depot project in Standish. The committee also discussed the funding situation with the State budget and how that will affect funding for staff support for the Heritage Route teams.

Denise Cline updated the team on the status of the brochure/map of the downtown area that she will be working on. While funds from MDOT for Heritage Route assistance will not pay for that type of work, NEMCOG will still create the map/brochure under another program. Denise will meet with Lynn Kolasa and Missi LeFave to discuss the project.

Jeff Gray brought up the possibility of the Maritime Heritage Center filling the role that a Welcome Center would have in the Alpena area. He stated that there might be the possibility of displaying tourist information at the facility. It was agreed that Deb Pardike needed to be part of that discussion.

A discussion occurred about the need for a pedestrian bridge on Bagley Street.

Dave Langhorst reviewed the history of the US 23 Heritage Route and the activities that led to the present structure.

The committee was provided with sections of the Heritage Route Management Plan pertaining to Alpena. Each team member agreed to review the document and be prepared to discuss what they feel would be a viable project for the Alpena Heritage Route team to pursue.

Jeff Gray brought up a possible project involving creating an interpretive trail through historical markers that would tell the maritime history of the region. NOAA would need to be an integral part of a project such as this. This could be done for the entire route. Eric Cline said that the idea would tie into other projects that have been in discussion in other forums. Denise Cline suggested that it be discussed at the Management Council level.

The group began a discussion involving signage, logos, and brochures which led to a discussion about the structure of the Management Council. The next Management Council meeting will be held on May 3rd at 10:00 am. Several members of the Alpena Team expressed the desire to attend to voice their concerns about certain issues relating to the make-up of the Council, the bylaws, the Marketing Plan, and regional coordination.

The next meeting of the Alpena Heritage Route Team will be held on May 7 at 1:30 at Alpena City Hall.