

Chassell Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Dated: September 8, 2016
Chassell Fire Hall

Planning Commission Officers Present

Brian Waters	Doug Hamar	Lou Ellyn Helman
Dale Peterson	Jim Manderfield	Steve Spahn
Dan Palosaari	Julie Meyers	
Darlene Gronevelt	Keith Meyers	

Guests and Residents of Chassell

Paul Bierman-Lytle	Lloyd Heldt	Jeff Ratcliffe
Brad Elliott	Ron Helman	Ericka Sheeran
Jack Engel	Phyllis Johnson	Darrell Smith
Murray Gillis	Joanne Kunre	
Severi Haataja	Dylan Malane	

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- Welcomed Planning Commission Officers, Chassell Township Residents and Guests
- Approval of the September 8, 2016 agenda: motion by Dale Peterson, support by Keith Meyers
- Introduction of Planning Commission Officers: Brian Waters, Dale Peterson, Dan Palosaari, Darlene Gronevelt, Doug Hamar, Jim Manderfield, Julie Meyers, Keith Meyers, Lou Ellyn Helman, Steve Spahn.

Open for comments or questions of planning commission officers – None.

Old Business

- Two access sites to the Sturgeon River, on US41 and on the Sturgeon River Road. Make them canoe and kayak accessible. Proposal: put a six foot wide defined trail for kayakers and canoes at both sites. US41 landing be moved and a small boat launch be put in on the Sturgeon River site.
(Open for discussion)

New Business

- Election of Planning Commission Officers: Chair - Brian Waters, motion to approve by Dale Peterson, 2nd Keith Meyers, 3rd Steve Spahn. Ayes All. Vice Chair – Steve Spahn, motion to approve by Dale Peterson, 2nd Brian Waters, 3rd Keith Meyers. Ayes All. Secretary – Darlene Gronevelt, motion to approve by Brian Waters, 2nd Dale Peterson, 3rd Keith Meyers. Ayes All.

Invited guests:

- Paul Bierman-Lytle with OHM reflected on presentation made to Chassell Township Board. Provided copies of a two page summary proposal for Chassell Centennial Park Master Plan. (See attached letter). Suggestions are long-term. Small additions made for park enhancement depending what the people of Chassell want. Would add a downtown plan at Chassell Township's request.
(Open for discussion)

Request from Chassell residents to make available the original recreation plan be placed on Chassell's new website.

- Jeff Ratcliffe, Director of KEDA (Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance) discussed the economic impact of a waterfront improvement project. Available to assist Chassell’s Planning Commission.
- In summary:
 - Development is Change
 - Waterfront development can create positive economic development in Chassell’s downtown
 - Get to know what the people of Chassell want
 - Have a vision of what the people want
 - Types of people determine types of activities
 - Manage the assets you build
 - Take care of the blight throughout Chassell (buildings, houses, properties etc.)
 - Know and enforce ordinances
 - Take advantage of grant funding
 - Management of resources
 - Get young people involved (engaging and managing).
 - Economic Development helps create jobs
 - Consider the housing in Chassell. Houghton County does not have the right mix of housing available. Referred to a recent study WUPPDR completed. Go to Western U.P. Planning Development Region website under “RPI” for results of study.

(Open for discussion)

- Mercantile Building status – asking it be taken down. Unstable condition creating safety hazard.
- Residents request that maintenance on what already exists in the Chassell Centennial Park be done before the addition of anything new.
- Monitor mill foil treatment essential to Chassell Bay for all types of activity.
- Next Planning Commission Meeting to be determined. Minutes to be posted on Chassell Website.
- Brian Waters thanked guests Paul Bierman-Lytle and Jeff Ratcliffe for coming; the planning commission officers for stepping forward to donate their time; and for the residents who attended and gave their input. Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. by Brian Waters, support by Steve Spahn

Respectfully Submitted by:

Brian Waters
Chassell Township Planning Commission Chair

Darlene Gronevelt
Chassell Township Planning Commission Secretary