

Chassell Township Planning Commission
October 3, 2019
Minutes

Attendance: Brian Waters, Pete Torola, Dan Palosaari, Dale Peterson, Dillon Geshel and Keith Meyers.

The meeting was called to order by Brian Waters at 7:02 p.m. and pledge of allegiance was given.

Rural Development Grant was added to the agenda. Brian moved approval of the agenda, Dale provided the second. Unanimous approval was given.

Minutes: August meeting minutes were reviewed as the public hearing on the draft zoning ordinance resulted in no September meeting. The Milfoil Committee provided feedback indicating that 5.a. should read “a pre-treatment survey was completed and recommended that Pike Bay be treated”. Dan asked about the submerged dock and it was noted that the DPW had gone ahead and removed it themselves. Keith moved that the minutes be approved with the change to 5.a. on Milfoil. Pete provided the second. Unanimous approval was given.

Public Comments: None

Road Commission Report: Dale reported first on Boundary Road. FEMA has not provided an amount of funding that would be available. Once established, Kevin Harju will talk with Portage Township Supervisor Bruce Petersen and David Mattson to discuss work beyond FEMA. Dan asked if the FEMA money will occur. Dale highlighted that it will, but as band-aids. This could be difficult since Portage Township does not have a road millage like Chassell Township does. Dale suggested that Portage Township might have a road millage on the ballot in November. Massie Road still awaits a FEMA determination on the north side ditch. Until then, seven spots have been identified and will result in the township determining what we will do. The Lakeshore Drive culvert, including a manhole, would be \$10,000 (our portion). If Chassell doesn't pay this portion, we would lose the FEMA funding on this. On the Half Moon Beach low curb, this will be between Jack Engel, Jim Manderfield and the Road Commission. On the old U.S. 41 bridge, the moving of the barrels has resulted in a threat by the Road Commission to take out the bridge. It was noted that the bridge had been surrendered to the township by the Road Commission. The commission's recommendation is that we need more secure barriers and they will not assume responsibility. Pete indicated that he was not sure that it was legal for the township to own a bridge or road. Dale indicated that David Mattson had asked him to ask the Road Commission and Kevin Harju will investigate. For now, it is our bridge and it is left to the township to determine how it will be handled. Dan volunteered to look at the bridge. Dan's recollection was that it had been about 7 years since the township took it over. Dale indicated that he had asked Kevin about the holes in front of the VFW and he indicated he would have them looked at. Pete indicated he would cover the October meeting for Dale.

Old Business:

Logo: Steve is continuing to work on this at the school.

Chassell Mercantile: Brian shared a copy of Nick Daaveetila's motion for default judgment date September 18, 2019. We are still waiting on ruling from the Circuit court.

Historical Trail Update: Keith indicated that Marco Guidotti's history class students came out to the Heritage Center on September 13th to see the mill exhibit and review mill documents with James Schwaderer from Michigan Tech and Luanne Hamel who is the Heritage Center's curator. Hunter King from the EGLE, who we will work with on the boardwalk permitting, was also present. After touring the Heritage Center, the class went to mill site where students walked the proposed trail with James. After the students took their tour, Keith walked the proposed trail with Hunter King from EGLE. Although Hunter indicated at that time that the township could be the applicant for the permit with written authorization from Doug, he subsequently contacted Keith indicating that Doug as the landowner should be the applicant. Details that Keith learned from Hunter was that the application would need to be filed online on MyWaters. The permit would be for an amount of linear feet, so he recommended that we overestimate the length. A permit would be valid for five years once approved, but that can be updated for a \$50 fee. Hunter indicated that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will want to see the plan. The application goes through a 30-day review. There is a public notice period of 20 calendar days including weekends. The permit will have to be issued within 30 days after the public notice period expires. Hunter indicated that pulling stumps or soil constitutes a dredge and cannot be done. Limbing is not a problem. EGLE will want to see the plans for equipment accessing the area to assure that best management practices are being employed. Keith indicated that he had emailed Cain Besse to keep him apprised of the site tour with James and Marco's class and the involvement of Hunter King from EGLE.

Community Center Update: On August 19th, Brian, Keith, Jeff Ratcliffe from KEDA, Don and Ann met on site with Rob McKay with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This was an opportunity to determine expectations SHPO would have regarding renovation. SHPO expectations are most rigid when historic tax credits are sought. We understand that MEDC expectations regarding renovation standards are not as strict with its funding. Keith posted on the Heritage Center Facebook page seeking historic photographs that would show earlier finishes to the ceiling which could potentially provide flexibility with the current design. Keith reported that he has been helping Don with coordinating a meeting with Jennifer Breitmoser at OHM to review the drawings for the project.

Traverse Engineering Report: Keith reported that John Paul Pietila is working toward finalizing the report. We have been assisting with letters of support. Brian provided a copy of the letter he had received from the Copper Country Walleye Association dated September 17th and that he was working with Ducks Unlimited on a letter. Keith had gotten a letter from the paddling club and Beth Jukuri indicated she would do one and talk with others who paddle.

Accessibility Report: Brian reported that we are pushing ahead with recommendations in the report with the assistance of DPW.

Rural Development Grant Opportunity: Pete discussed this opportunity which could provide up to a \$100,000 per award and that there is \$1.4 million available with a 30% match. Keith indicated that he would reach out to Chris Holmes about the sewer project as a potential candidate.

New Business:

Public Hearing Review: Brian reported that the meeting went well and that a zoning subcommittee meeting will take place at 6 on Monday.

Membership Term Renewal: Ericka and Brian have been approved for new 3-year terms. Trevor Clark had been interested, but we no longer have a vacancy on the commission. No one else from the Township Board stepped up, so Dan is continuing.

Fitness Trail Equipment Installation Volunteers: We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Heritage Center

Fitness Trail Signage: Brian noted the construction trades class is willing to do the sign project showing the direction to go on the fitness trail. Steve will coordinate this.

Old Ice Rink & Warming Building: Brian discussed that with the boards off the old ice rink, this may make for a great parking area. This will be the starting point for the fitness trail. The commission discussed the renovation of the warming building as a potential grant opportunity. This will be discussed with the township board.

Cemetery Church – Dangerous Building: This is a 50' x 100' lot. Dan noted this may be a good location for a small house. Keith will get with Heath Sundstrom on the status. It was in probate at last check and Keith had connected Deven Harris with Heath Sundstrom on his potential interest in the property as Heath had expressed a willingness to sign over the property. We will also check if MSHDA is going to offer any grant assistance this year for addressing blighted buildings, so we will want to develop numbers on tear-down and clean-up costs.

Marijuana Webinar: Brian noted that a marijuana regulations webinar was available through MSU Extension if any commission members were interested.

Next meeting will be on November 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.