

MINUTES
Chassell Township
Planning Commission Meeting
March 5, 2020

Dated March 5, 2020
Chassell Fire Hall

Attendance: Brian Waters, Steve Spahn, Doug Hamar, Pete Torola, Dillon Geshel, and Keith Meyers Absent: Dan Palosaari, Ericka Malone and Dale Peterson Guests: John Paul Pietila and David Mattson

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was given.
3. Brian Waters moved approval of the agenda with a second from Steve Spahn. There was unanimous approval.
4. John Paul Pietila from Traverse Engineering Services presented the final engineering study report for the Sturgeon River Boating Access Site. John Paul noted that the DNR has indicated that there is limited funding in the Waterways Grant program this year due to the high-water issues on the Great Lakes downstate. There was discussion of the need to have the canoe/kayak launch dock on a sliding pole system to adjust to changing river levels. There was discussion of the ADA accessible path leading from the parking area to the canoe/kayak launch dock and the ramp to access it from the shore. Brian asked about the rip rap to stabilize the riverbank. John Paul will present the final report to the Township Board at its meeting next Wednesday.
5. The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. Doug Hamar moved their approval with a second from Dillon Geshel. The minutes from the February meeting were approved unanimously.
6. There were no public comments.
7. Pete Torola provided the road commission report. He noted that Torch Lake Township is getting stamp sand from Houghton County. They are providing two feet for \$10,000 per mile for a 6" gravel lift. Pete is completing the gravel road spreadsheet. It will be another couple of weeks before assessment. In those areas needing it, two feet of sand sub-base and 6" of gravel would help with the freeze and thaw. These could still eventually be paved. Driveways would have to be addressed in the process. The March 23rd road meeting at 1:30 p.m. needs coverage.

Old Business

- a. Chassell Township Logo: Steve Spahn reported that the artist is working on the revision. Brian Waters explained the contest to David Mattson.
- b. Chassell Mercantile Update: Keith Meyers indicate that the word was that Vulaj was obtaining estimates. It is understood that Moyle had been contacted. We will follow up with Nick Daavettila to contact Vulaj on progress.
- c. Historical Trail Update: Doug Hamar has been traveling but will be working on the EGLE permit for the boardwalk.

- d. Community Building Update: Keith Meyers indicated Don Kendall is working on some re-measurements after talking with the restaurant partners. Once completed, Don's drawings will need to be revised and then discussion can continue with OHM.
- e. Centennial Park Accessibility Report: Brian Waters explained this to David Mattson and that an ADA accessible pathway to the restrooms is the big item.
- f. Cemetery Church – Dangerous Building: Keith Meyers indicated that Heath Sundstrom had a health issue that required him to go to Mayo. It appears that ownership may still be tied up in probate, but there was still an interest in passing ownership at no cost if there is an interested party. It was agreed that the significant recent deterioration of the building will require aggressive action once the weather improves.
- g. Fitness Trail Signage: Keith Meyers will determine locations where signage is needed while out doing GPS work with G and pass these along to Steve Spahn to share with the construction trades class.
- h. DNR Rail-Trail / Trail Authority: Keith Meyers discussed the County Commission's effort to establish a county-wide recreation authority. He noted that its current focus is on the flood damaged Trail 3 between Dollar Bay and Lake Linden. Even though this county-wide authority is being pursued, there would still be a need to have a local authority in Chassell and Portage Townships to govern the rail-trail as well as to govern a re-established snowmobile trail between Chassell and the Nichols Trail.
- i. MTU Senior Project (David Nelson): Keith Meyers explained to David Mattson the meeting that was held with David Nelson from MTU. The plan is to meet with students in August to review potential projects in Chassell (e.g. drainage, warming hut at old rink, brook trout restoration on Hamar Creek, marina, etc.) for senior design projects. We would provide lunch as part of this discussion.
- j. Master Plan Committee: Brian discussed the need to get this moving again with the completion of the Zoning Ordinance. Pat Coleman was brought up as someone who might be of assistance with the process.

New Business

- a. Sturgeon River Launch / John Paul: This was covered at the beginning of the meeting to accommodate John Paul's schedule
- b. Zoning Ordinance Review: David Mattson's input provided by email was reviewed. On RV/Campers, David had noted that Chassell is a destination/vacation area that welcomes visitors with and without RVs. He noted that he did not think the sight of RV/campers is offensive to visitors. His belief was that that the section should be revised to indicate that RV/Campers should be parked as to not be seen by the public as much as possible and to not restrict this any further. Doug Hamar brought up neighbor concern and noted that side lots and front lots should be clear of nuisances. The commission noted the availability of space along the back alley. David asked about boats and asked if we are singling out RVs. The question was raised if RVs and boats should be treated the same. We will take a closer look at 2.2.9. We will also take a closer look at licensed versus unlicensed vehicles on property as this was another issue that had come up in one of the previous public hearings. David also brought up the towers section and whether there should be a ban on potentially harmful frequencies at the millimeter wave frequency, not necessarily a 5G ban, since consequences to health and the environment may not be

understood for years. He noted that until the Board is convinced that millimeter wave frequencies are safe, there should be no transmission of millimeter wave frequencies for public use with the township; however, individual residents and business owners who wish to utilize millimeter wave frequencies within their boundaries would be permissible. Keith Meyers indicated that he would contact his brother-in-law who is a journalist in the industry to see what kind of information he could provide us on best practice language. There was also discussion of David's recommendation that the Towers section limit the number of cell towers to one within the township. On Blight, the possibility of pulling this out of the Rural district was discussed. This will be discussed at greater length at the Zoning Subcommittee's next meeting on March 16th. It was also agreed that the results of the blight survey should be posted on the township website. David also brought up the need to take a closer look at 2.2.9 as it relates to shipping containers. He noted that they are more prevalent as electronic containers are frequently single use and are cheaper to sell here. We should determine if a foundation is required after a set period. There was general agreement that we also need to agree on micro house size since they are becoming more commonplace. There was also agreement that sheds should be defined separately. It was noted that 12' x 12' requires a permit and that under 200 square feet does not require a permit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.