

MINUTES

Chassell Township Planning Commission Meeting

Dated: January 5, 2023

Chassell Fire Hall

Attendance: Lynn Gierke, Doug Hamar, Keith Meyers, Daniel Niemela, Dan Palosaari, Steve Spahn, TJ Palosaari, Brian Waters

1. Call to Order 7:00
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the Agenda with additions to New Business D. Houghton Co. Recreation Authority Membership. Brian Waters moves, TJ Palosaari seconds, all aye.
4. Reading and Approval of November Minutes. Brian Waters moves to approve, Steve seconds, all aye. Reading and Approval of December Minutes. TJ Palosaari moves, Brian Waters seconds, all aye.
5. Public Comments-Brian Waters wanted to thank Keith Meyers for his tireless work on what he had done this past year for the PC.
6. Road Commission Report-Lynn Gierke reported that the 5-Year Road Plan submitted to the board was approved at the December 2022 Board meeting and submitted to the Houghton Co. Road Commission.
7. Old Business
 - a. Chassell Mercantile Update
 - i. The opportunity with the prospective business tenant appears to be falling through due to the needed footprint.
 - b. Historical Trail Update
 - i. DP finished the boardwalk in December. Stump by Planing Mill location will be moved in the Spring. Five of the nine signs completed by the MTU students have had their fonts expanded by Terri Frew and have gone to Industrial Graphics. The other four are in process. "Trail Mix" will be brought in the Spring by DP.
 - c. Snowmobile Trail Update-TJ reported that he will attend the Houghton Co. Recreation Authority meeting on January 9th at 1:30 pm. Lynn Gierke explained that the ball was dropped by the township and we were not included in the Articles of Incorporation that had to be advertised a second time. By attending the meeting TJ will see if the Township will benefit by being part of the Authority.
 - d. Centennial Park Engineering Study-Chris Holmes has indicated that the study will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

- e. Sturgeon River Water Trail Mapping-Mat Moore is coordinating with Industrial Graphics on the completion of the launch signage. He has expanded the font size on the sign with the map and is finalizing the illustrations on the other sign by next week. Rich Smith suggested that map be put in place at the sloughs launch to help with navigation of that area. Keith Meyers said he could check with the authority responsible for that launch.
- f. Bark Park Improvements-Fencing work will be done in Spring.
- g. RFP Specifications for Chassell Park Launch Site Vendor-Keith Meyers reported that the City of Houghton entered into an "agreement" with the vendor. Also, they noted that vandalism decreased at the park once they had an onsite vendor. Suggestion to include in RFP-monitor boat launch and fees.
- h. Launch Site Amenities as part of DNR Grant Proposal-Passport Grant or Trust Fund application for pit or flush toilets, picnic tables, trash cans, recycling, BBQ, etc. Question asked if the Township could charge a fee to use the launch. It is believed that we cannot because the launch is an access point on the river.
- i. DNR Spark Grant-Keith Meyers reported that the application was submitted for \$495K. Application included: Waterfront-boardwalk, manufacture of adjustable boat launch dock, ADA path from pavilion to dock, new ice rink boards, retrofit pavilion restrooms to all winter access, retrofit pavilion arena to allow for 8' curtains. Proposal 2-continued recommendations from Park Engineering plan.
- j. Bridges Out of Poverty-The township approved to move forward with an agreement with Portage Health Foundation. The PC can be part of awards that would be 1-2 times per year. PHF would help with standards and acquiring volunteer groups to help with work.
- k. Lakeshore Drive Long Term Rental Issue-Keith Meyers reached out to the landlord of the rental. They were unable to attend the meeting tonight and will next month.
- l. Planning Commission Membership Opening-One letter of intent was received from Rich Smith. He introduced himself to the committee. Doug Hamar moves to appoint Rich Smith to the open position that expires 8/2025, second by Brian Waters, all aye.

8. New Business

- a. Holy Trinity Church and adjoining property FRP-no bids were submitted to the Land Bank. Motion by Keith Meyers supported by Brian Waters to recommend new deadline 3/31/23 to the board. All ayes.
- b. Sturgeon River Launch-American Dock will be submitting a plan. Accudock

- still needs to respond if they can add wheels to the dock.
- c. Approval Master Plan Draft-Brian Waters moves to have public hearing April 6th at 5 pm second by TJ Palosaari, all ayes.

Next meeting date – February 2, 2023 at 7 pm

Adjourn 8:50 pm. Brian Waters moves, TJ Palosaari seconds all aye