

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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6:00 p.m., Monday
February 12, 2018

BIG BEAR SPORTSMAN CLUB
8927 Puustinen Road
Kaleva, Michigan

MINUTES

Ms. Tamara Buswinka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Present: Tamara Buswinka, AES; Rob Carson, Manistee County Planner; Linda Finout, Manistee Twp; Karla Kasten, Kaleva Village; Jack Cramer, Springdale Twp; Mary Reed, Onkama Twp & Village; Randy Sanovic, Manistee Snowbirds; Mark Coe, Manistee Snowbirds; Jacque Erdman, Pleasanton Twp; Linda Cudney, Cleon Twp; Elaine Gibbs, Copemish Village; Karen Kolk, Filer Twp; Sharon Goble, Manistee County Planning Commission; Margaret Batzer, Manistee County; Greg McPherson, Bear Lake Village; John Steben, Arcadia Twp; Patty O'Donnell, MDOT; Lisa Leedy, AES and Nancy Baker, Manistee County Planning Assistant.

New Roles for Planning Department and AES: Discussion

AES is contracted through the County Board. Ms. Leedy listed the work items. The Copemish trail, Recreation Authority and the trail committee are on this list. Ms. Buswinka will be conducting the meetings. Mr. Carson will do mapping, document prep, work with MDOT and the state, assist with grant writing, possibly some subcommittee meeting work and technical work. The trail committee role will stay the same, including reporting to their township and/or planning commission.

Trail Segment Development Reports:

❖ **Copemish Trail Grant for Phase 1**

This trail segment will connect to the Betsie Valley Trail and then to Mesick. From Mesick the trail will connect to the White Pine Trail which goes north of Mesick and south to Grand Rapids. The grant is being written for this segment. The DNR is in full support of this segment and working to help make the trail go forward. Mr. Carson will be attending meetings over the course of several days regarding township resolutions for the trail. The match needed is approximately \$100,000. The committee will be discussing the match for this trail and other trails.

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❖ **M55 Bridge**

MDOT will be replacing the M55 bridge. Ms. O'Donnell, MDOT, stated bridge work did not originally include a trail section on the bridge. MDOT engineers will work with the trail committee to incorporate a trail section when the replacement of the bridge is done. The extension on the bridge will be for 2-way trail traffic. The trail committee needs to be placed on the agenda for a Manistee Township meeting, attend the meeting and encourage the township to work with MDOT and the committee to have this section included on the bridge when the construction takes place.

❖ **City of Manistee—Bear Lake—Onekama (Zimmerman Trail Extension)**

A revised route has been done. A new name will most likely be given to for this route.

❖ **Filer—Stronach—Norman Township**

The need to get these areas involved is important. Much of the route is Forest Service area. Due to their long internal process it's important to start work on this trail with the USFS now. When the USFS process is complete the committee will be ready to move forward with the trail.

Recreation Authority: Discussion & Set Work Plan

The Rec Authority may consist of most/all of the trail committee members. A work plan needs to be set. Substantial public outreach is needed. A timeline of goals will be put together. Contact with the committees' townships is important as is communication with their community. The Rec Authority document at this point is a draft, a working document. The document with the revisions will be sent to everyone. It is suggested that the document be looked over, be revisited at an upcoming meeting, re-discussed and revised if necessary. Naming the Rec Authority was discussed in a past meeting and will be discussed again. It was requested that all and any community concerns/comments be sent to Ms. Buswinka, so the trail committee will know how to address them. A name for the authority with an agreed acronym is important. The name does not have to contain the word "Authority" in it but caution should be taken in eliminating the word. The Community Foundation has an interest in the trail committee tying the trail system with existing programs such as Explore the Shores. Finding funding for a branch off another program may be easier to come by if the 2 were somehow connected, such as connecting with a name that ties both together.

Fund Development Committee: Set Work Plan

Ms. Buswinka suggested the different subcommittees meet partway through the trail committee meeting with the trail committee meeting regrouping to finish its regular meeting. An email will go out to each member asking which subcommittee they are on. This list will be shared with members. If a member has a correction to the list, they

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should contact Ms. Buswinka.

Marketing & Communication Committee: Set Work Plan

The options they have come up with will be presented at the next trail committee meeting. A logo should be presented to the trail committee in the near future.

RFP Committee formation to secure Engineering/Construction of Record

Spicer Group has been working with the trail committee on engineering trails. Other engineer groups will be looked at. Ms. Leedy has an RFP which will need to be changed to reflect this work. The engineering company's work will be reviewed every so often to make sure the work is done to the committee's liking. Contact with the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy regarding their trail in Arcadia will be made to find out their goals, share the trail committee goals and see if they can be meshed together.

General Comment & Questions

Mark Laguire will be speaking for several hours on the Appalachian Trail. He will share issues in trail development and his hiking experiences on the trail. This will take place at the Big Bear Sportsman Club in Kaleva, Saturday, February 24th at 2:30 p.m.

A community forum discussion will be set up in the near future. The 4-zone area will be done. This information, with anything else to be shared, will be taken to each township/planning board by the trail committee member. The goal is for June/July reporting to the townships.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be March 12^h at the Big Bear Sportsman Club, Kaleva, 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary

Date: February 12, 2018