

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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6:00 p.m., Monday
April 9, 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; Sharon Goble, Manistee County Planning Commission; Mary Reed, Onekama Twp & Village; Margot Batzer, Manistee County; Karla Kasten, Kaleva Village; Randy Sanovic, Manistee Snowbirds; Mark Coe, Manistee Snowbirds; Jacque Erdman, Pleasanton Twp; Linda Cudney, Cleon Twp; Elaine Gibbs, Copemish Village; Greg McPherson, Bear Lake Village; John Steben, Arcadia Twp; Ken Blakely-Shell, City of Manistee and Cycle Club; Wayne Beldo, Maple Grove Township; Laura Heinzelman, MC Community Foundation and Nancy Baker, Manistee County Planning Assistant.

Trail Updates

The Trust Fund Grant has been submitted to the DNR. The mileage was reduced to 2.5 miles to fit the estimated cost from Spicer. An internal grant from the DNR was requested and 60,000 was received. The committee must raise the 84,000 match, by letters of commitment, by October.

The committee has presented itself to the county as an established group.

M55 Bridge: Three options of bridge construction incorporating a trail lane at the time of construction was presented by MDOT. The Trail Committee held an emergency meeting regarding the discussion of these options. Ms. Goble created and presented the power point.

Fund Development

Laura Heinzelman informed the committee of several types of funds established at the foundation and the grant cycle. The Trail Committee has a large-scale project which will impact the county. The Community Foundation will meet, will review this project and advise on it imminently. A non-endowment fund can help receive donations for the trail segment being worked on. She explained the foundation can help with the October match and will then enter into an agreement with the owner of the trail segment. Cleon

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Township will be considered the owner of the trail segment, not the Trail Committee as this is not a legal entity. The agreement with the township would be specific to this segment. Donations from the foundation would be placed in a fund. The township will need to give this fund a name. Cleon Township must set up a separate fund for trail donations. The fund can receive a tax deduction which will benefit donors. A possible 2-year timeline for the funds with a possible 1-year extension will be considered. Questions were raised regarding the possibility of the remaining funds being placed into an endowment fund for future maintenance on the trail and if it can be placed towards other trail segments. Cleon Township must be the applicant for this trail segment and they must receive the matching funds. Trails must be done segment-by-segment until either a non-profit, a recreation authority or a county or another government agency become the owner of the trails. Other endowment funds can be set up and then rolled over to an endowment fund once things get to this point. Several questions arose: what if the matches are not met, funds are received above what is needed and what happens if people want to contribute to the broader project of trail segments. Laura stated the committee should have no problem raising the match, if more funding than what is needed are received the trail segment fund that is set up with Cleon Township could be set up for future maintenance with the possibility of a permanent endowment fund or reserved fund. Right now, there is not an umbrella entity in place for funds for the broader project aspect of things. This possibly is a temporary situation. She recommended the committee reach out to donors for pledges, foundations etc. before accepting other public donations. The committee is not in a position right now for broader project funding. Tamara stated the committee is working on a Rec Authority or possibly a 501-C3. Manistee County has only township parks, no county parks. It was mentioned that the White Pine Trail is listed as a park. The Rec Authority could possibly establish county parks but would have to assume the maintenance. A Rec Authority has certain requirements. If the county gets involved, this could give the Rec Authority a separate option. Tamara will make a pro and con chart for the 3 options: Rec Authority, 501-C3 and county involvement. Laura recommended having half of the 84,000 in pledges before asking for public donations. She encouraged applying for matching funds from the Community Foundation. Tamara stated the Fund Subcommittee will need to meet with Laura in the very near future to develop a fund campaign. Laura stated the Minger family, who visited Manistee County quite often for its great recreation, have established the Minger Endowment Fund for recreation items in Manistee County. This preapplication needs to be submitted by May 1st with the application due by May 15th. Guidelines for this fund were reviewed. The Trail Committee will ask for 54,000 on the preapplication. Conversation ensued regarding the connection of the Copemish trail to the Betsie Valley trail and how this will make a positive impact for receiving funds. It was once again mentioned that this segment of land is owned by the DNR. A pledge form should be put together to keep track of all the funds, donations etc. that are received. Laura stated a website will become available, so people can make donations to the fund.

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Sub Committee

The committee members will receive an email from Tamara with the 2 subcommittees listed. Each member is to look at it and place their name under one of them. They are the Outreach Subcommittee and the Funding Development Subcommittee. The subcommittees will meet outside of the regular trail meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be June 11, 2018 at 6 pm at the Big Bear Sportsman Club.

The meeting ended at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary

Date: April 9, 2018