

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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6:00 p.m., Monday  
July 10, 2017

BIG BEAR SPORTSMAN CLUB  
8927 Puustinen Road  
Kaleva, Michigan

MINUTES

**Mr. Rob Carson called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.**

**Introductions**

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Present: Rob Carson, Manistee County Planner; Ken Blakey-Shell, City of Manistee; Linda Finout, Manistee Twp; Karla Kasten, Kaleva Village; Mickey McCann, City of Manistee; Jack Cramer, Springdale Twp; Mary Reed, Onekama Twp & Village; Randy Sanovic, Manistee Snowbirds; Mark Coe, Manistee Snowbirds; Linda Cudney, Cleon Twp; Elaine Gibbs, Copemish Village; Sharon Goble, Manistee County Planning Commission; Margaret Batzer, Manistee County; Greg McPherson, Bear Lake Village; Fran Cerka, Stronach Twp; Brook Shafer and Nancy Baker, Manistee County Planning Assistant.

**Trail Segments Updates**

Three trail segments are in the works for becoming secured. The county board has indicated they will work with the committee. Things are getting set up to move forward with trail grants.

❖ **Thompsonville—Copemish—Wexford County**

The DNR is working with the committee on the connection between Manistee County and Wexford County.

❖ **Thompsonville--Kaleva**

This segment has a section owned by Merit Energy. This is the only part that needs to be secured for the grant to be ready to move forward.

❖ **Southwest Manistee County Connections**

Several routes have been drawn out. Alternatives are being considered. These will be brought to the committee to look at the routes and see which would be the most feasible.

**Recreation Authority (Manistee County Trail Implementation & Recreation Authority Fact Sheet)**

The state encourages the placement of a Recreation Authority. Mr. Carson distributed a

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sample draft of a Recreational Authority for the committee to look over. This will give the committee an idea of what it will take to establish an authority. Mr. Carson requested comments, regarding the draft, be brought to the next meeting for discussion. It's recommended that the committee inform their townships how the Recreation Authority will work, the importance of a mileage and how this will work for the townships regarding the recreation/trail plan. Submission of a grant can be for miles of trails in several townships or one township at a time. Some grants may require a match. The county board can determine if the county will participate as an entity for fund and grant purposes. If the county gets involved, the townships keep their control and have an equal voice. A great deal can be accomplished if the townships work together rather than each entity working independently. Maintenance would go under the Recreation Authority rather than each local section. Fund raising is another direction to consider. Discussion regarding fund raising with the sale of water bottles, t-shirts etc. ensued. Connecting to the neighboring trails is important. There are grants for these connecting trails and making the connections will bring in a great deal of tourism. Working together with the connecting trails will help in all aspects. The AES office is undertaking some of the grant work. The DNR has requested the committee delay the grants to the Wexford County connection until this trail section is more secure. It was stated that donations to the trail can be written off. Development of the trails will bring in tourism which brings people to hotels, stores, campgrounds, rentals etc. Trails improve an area, including the value of private property. The lack of trails in the county are resulting in missed economic opportunities. The county road commission will assist if the trail requires it to connect to a road right-of-way.

**Grant pursuance and steps for trail segments**

Pictures of the trail segments should be taken and submitted with the grant(s). The grant for the Wexford County connection will be submitted this winter. The Thompsonville-Kaleva trail is on hold until contact with the Merit Energy company can be accomplished. This trail will connect to 3 villages once the Merit Energy section is taken care of.

**General Comment & Questions****Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Big Bear Sportsman Club, Kaleva

The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary

Date: July 10, 2017

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