

**M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Readmond Township Hall**

Members Present

Joey Arbaugh, West Traverse Township
Rob Deane, Cross Village Township
Joe Englehard, Readmond Township
Ron Krause, Readmond Township
Bill Prall, Friendship Township
Carolyn Sandford, West Traverse Township
Dave Shear, Emmet County Lakeshore Association
Henry Singer, Cross Village Township
Naomi Singer, Cross Village Township

Guests Present

Dave Langhorst, MI Department of Transportation

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ron Krause called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Review Proposed Agenda

The agenda was accepted.

III. Approval of the March 11, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Dave Langhorst stated a change to VI. Correspondence A. Wooden Bridge Project. The last two sentences should read: There are seven design exceptions to the MDOT bridge standards. As requested, no design includes a walkway. Motion made by Rob Deane, support by Joey Arbaugh to approve the March 2008 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

No new business.

V. Old Business

A. Signs

1. Adopt-a-Highway Signs Project Update

Dave Langhorst reiterated Matt Radulski's concerns about the signs would be too large with small letters for all the sponsors. It was suggested that MDOT take down the sign that has the ReMax 12 miles. Discussion followed regarding different signs for heritage routes – minimize, attractive. Work with the other Heritage Routes and take this topic up at the statewide conference in September.

Motion by Rob Deane, support by Carolyn Sandford to draft a letter to Pete Hanses, MDOT Heritage Route Coordinator from all three heritage routes in the Council of Governments' region about signs and then work to amend the heritage route enabling act.

2. Tunnel of Trees Sign to West Traverse Township Update

The sign will be moved in the spring.

Other:

The Middle Village Church directional sign was not approved by MDOT. Please send Dave Langhorst the details and MDOT will make the contact.

B. Township Resolution Actions

The results of the Community Preference Survey Results for the residents who live right on the Heritage Route were distributed to look at the responses regarding tree protection actions.

C. Management Plan Updating Process

The May Committee meeting will be devoted to starting the updating process. Photographs will be taken in June to update the inventory. Please have extra copies of the plan on hand for the May meeting.

D. Educational Activities Update

Please let Patty know of any opportunities to set up and staff the display.

VI. Correspondence**A. Wooden Bridge Project**

Dave Langhorst reported that Northwest Design Group is continuing to work on the structural design standards. They still need five design exceptions. The contractors are looking at the standards to make recommendations for the MDOT Lansing engineers such as curve issues and flattening out the road. They will be bringing the Lansing staff for a site visit in the spring. MDOT will be looking for construction funding from the National Scenic Byways and other sources.

VII. Public Comment

Denise Simon from Friendship Township requested information from the Community Preference survey for their master plan update.

Bill Prall asked about the steep slope issues and the upcoming melt off of snow – will we see a problem this year? It all depends on how much snow has built up and how fast the melting occurs.

Carolyn asked if West Traverse Township should send out the Community Preference Survey especially since the township may not have the same views as the other three townships. Patty will send a copy of the survey to Carolyn.

Patty announced that M-37 in Peninsula Township in Grand Traverse County has been designated a heritage route – the Old Mission Peninsula Scenic Heritage Route.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at Readmond Township Hall.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.