

**M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 14, 2009 9:30 a.m.
West Traverse Township Hall**

Members Present

Carolyn Sandford, West Traverse Township
Bill Prall, Friendship Township
Joseph Engelhard, Readmond Township
Ron Krause, Readmond Township
Larry Wallen, Readmond Township
Rob Deane, Cross Village Township
Henry Singer, Cross Village Township
Naomi Singer, Cross Village Township
Richard Cobb, Emmet County Lakeshore Association
Dell Weitzel, Emmet County Lakeshore Association

Guests Present

Nancy Salar, Emmet County Planning, Zoning, and Building Department
Garrett Dawe, MDOT Grayling TSC
Howard Crane, Cross Village
Cathy Hulbert, Readmond Township
George Reindel, Readmond Township

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

Naomi Singer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made around the table. Garrett Dawe is the new Traffic and Safety Engineer for MDOT at the Grayling Transportation Service Center.

II. Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Review Proposed Agenda

Agenda approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (June 9, 2009)

Motion made by Rob Deane, support by Carolyn Sandford to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

V. New Business

a. Erosion Issues

Nancy Salar, Soil Erosion Officer from the Emmet County Planning, Zoning and Building Department presented information on high risk erosion areas and the M-119 corridor has one designated area by the State of Michigan on Lamkin Drive; shoreline bluff protection; and some stormwater work through the site plan review process. Soil erosion control and enforcement is designated to the counties by the State of Michigan. Any earth change within

500 feet of a body of water needs a soil erosion permit. No permits can be denied, but there are control measures and conditions with the permit so that erosion from an earth change activity does not end up in a waterway. There are minor exceptions such as gardening or post hole digging. Nancy distributed a "Frequently Asked Questions" handout. Rob Deane asked about the work done at the Five Mile Creek dam area – there were overlapping permits from Emmet County and the MI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). There are critical dunes regulations with MI DEQ and Emmet County has an overlay district of protection mostly in the Cross Village area. The County's Stormwater Control Ordinance was repealed due to a MI Attorney General's letter stating that counties cannot enact ordinances over local governments without their adoption. There was a question on where to go to pass on concerns that occur along the M-119 corridor – Emmet County Planning, Zoning and Building and the contacts are listed on the back of the Guidebook. Are there reparation costs and fines for violations? Usually just stop work orders to make the person correct their wrongdoings. There was some discussion about the Phragmites issue along the shoreline and the eradication of this exotic invasive species. There was a question from the public on who fixes or pays for the control measures when there has been a violation or blatant removal of trees that may cause a landslide and then replacing the vegetation that was removed? Nancy stated that stabilization comes first for the area and then it is between the property owners.

Thank you Nancy for your information and where to go with concerns and reportings.

VI. Old Business

a. M-119 Committee Open House

Patty presented a proposed agenda for the event on Thursday, September 10th at Readmond Township: a work session would be held with the Committee, township elected officials, and partners. Then there would be a public session to present the updated management plan with the priority projects and actions, Guidebook, and possibly gathering volunteers to be corridor stewards. Discussion followed. The Committee suggested the following: it would be a M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Public Education Forum at 6:30 p.m. with dessert and drinks. The Committee would like Henry Singer to present the historical summary. Patty will send a revised Forum agenda to the Committee members to review.

b. Prioritize Projects

The Committee will send their top five priority projects to Patty before the August meeting. A reminder will be sent to the Committee members with the August meeting notice.

c. National Scenic Byways Conference

Patty reported that Dell Weitzel will be attending the Conference for the M-119 Committee. He will give a report at the September meeting.

VII. Project Updates

a. MI Heritage routes and Signage Committee Update

Patty stated that the Signage Committee held a face to face meeting on June 11th in Gaylord at the MDOT Regional Office with Lansing staff and Corbin Design attending. A conference call was also held on July 9th. Corbin Design presented an outline to the Signage Committee for review. The M-119 Committee members requested that copies of the draft signage strategy be sent out for review and discussion at their September 8th meeting.

b. Educational Activities

1. Guidebook Distribution

Dick Cobb stated that distribution is going very well with having to place 25 more copies at the Good Hart store because the first 50 were gone; distributed to a hiking group (25-30); and a morning breakfast club. Dell reported that Guidebooks were distributed to the Blisswood Association.

2. Good Hart Fair

The M-119 display will be at the Fair, Sunday the July 19th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

3. Other Events/Displays

Naomi will look into when the Cross Village Homecoming event and having a display.

VIII. Correspondence

Patty reported that Matt Radulski at MDOT has a new position and that Garrett will be taking over as the representative from the MDOT Grayling Transportation Service Center. Garrett stated that they have the paint but not the available labor right now. They are looking into utilizing the Summer Youth program.

IX. Committee Member Comment

1. Henry Singer reported on a. tree clearcutting activities going on at this time on the west side of the Route on a very steep slope – is it in the right-of-way? Is it in the greenbelt? MDOT will do a site visit; b. There are two new large Adopt-a-Highway signs. Adopt-a-Highway signs are allowed about every two miles. Please make sure this issue is highlighted in the state signage strategy.

2. Rob Deane stated that in the July 8th *Petoskey News Review* there is an article regarding Cross village and ORV ordinance information. Naomi added that there will be an ORV ordinance update at the August Committee meeting.

X. Public Comment

No public comment.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 11, 2009** at Friendship Township Hall.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.