

**M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 12, 2008 9:30 a.m.
Friendship Township Hall**

Members Present

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

Guests

Holly Hillier, Readmond Township
Dick Selvala, Emmet County Lakeshore Association/Cross Village
David Kuckelman, Readmond Township
Tom Whittingham, Cross Village Township
Nancy Whittingham, Cross Village Township
Clas Nilstoft, Readmond Township
Dale Scott, Friendship Township

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dick Cobb called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Review Proposed Agenda

Patty O'Donnell asked that the Wooden Bridge Project Update be removed from the agenda because Dave Langhorst was not available.

III. Review and Approve July 8, 2008 Minutes

Motion made by Dell Weitzel, support by Naomi Singer to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

No new business at this time.

V. Old Business

A. Township Resolution Action Request

A draft letter to the Townships was distributed to the Committee members in the agenda packet. Patty asked if there were any additions or deletions. Motion made by Naomi Singer, support by Joey Arbaugh to approve the letter and send it out to the Townships. Motion carried.

B. Draft Project Priority List Review

Motion made by Ron Krause, support by Joey Arbaugh to approve the revised Project Priority List for the Management Plan Update. Patty would like to thank Carolyn Sandford and Naomi for completing the photo inventory for the Update.

C. Michigan Heritage Route Conference

Patty reported that the conference agenda and schedule are complete and registrations are coming in. Dick Cobb asked that a summary of the conference be given at the October 14th meeting by those on the Committee who are attending.

There were questions about the wayfinding signs plenary session and relating it to signs that have been placed on the heritage route such as Smokey the Bear by the fire department and children at play signs and pylons near Island View Road. Patty will check with Dave Langhorst.

D. Educational Activities

The M-119 Tunnel of Trees display was up at the Good Hart Mini Fair on Sunday, July 20th and staffed by Patty.

It was noted that the display should be at the Harbor Springs Christmas Open House again in December.

The Committee suggested that the heritage route issues for educational activities such as courtesy on the highway, signage, tree cutting, tree trimming, native plantings, erosion control, steep slopes, etc. be combined in one document. The document would include example pictures of the Tunnel of Trees and a clear cut (before and after). Have a draft document for the November meeting.

It was reported that some tree cutting has taken place on some property on the bluff on the west side right of way to create a viewshed from the cottage.

There is a memorial on the side of the road and Patty will ask Dave Langhorst about them.

VI. Correspondence

Patty reported on the article in the *Petoskey News Review* about the "Audio Tours Promote Northern Michigan" – Route Scouts.

Patty noted that the Committee received a copy of the *Lake Michigan Travel Guide* from the author that has information about the Tunnel of Trees.

VII. Committee Member Comment

Dave Shear reported that there is a petition at gas stations regarding the new Michigan law pertaining to ORV use. ORVs are not allowed on state highways. Discussion followed regarding the new law and Emmet County Commissioners discussing an ordinance. Motion made by Naomi Singer, support by Ron Krause to send a letter to Jim Tamlyn, Chairman of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners regarding their discussion and future decision making on ORVs on county roads and that they be sensitive to the county roads that connect directly to M-119 where they should not be riding. Copies are to be sent to the Emmet County Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police, and Emmet County Road Commission.

Bill Prall asked for clarification regarding the township resolutions letter – what is the Committee doing with reference to the actions requested in the resolutions. The three townships that sent resolutions are under County planning and zoning. The Committee does soft intervention with communication. Henry singer stated that the preamble to the management plan is "... a linear community across borders". The Committee should look at the new Emmet County Management Plan for references to

green belts, buffers, the Tunnel of Trees, etc. It was suggested to update the townships on an annual basis concerning actions to protect the Tunnel of Trees.

Henry reported that the DALMAC bike ride from Lansing to Mackinaw City will be taking place the week leading up to Labor Day. The Committee will send a letter to the DALMAC organizers to ask as a courtesy and safety issue to please ride single file on M-119 from Harbor Springs to Cross Village. There was discussion regarding enforcement of the bike laws. Dick will call the Emmet County Sheriff Department.

VIII. Public Comment

Dick Sevala reported that the townships' fire department is having a fundraiser to purchase a four wheel ORV for emergencies that happen off the main roads in the woods to get to them.

Dale Scott inquired about the township resolution that was asking the Committee for assistance and options for the township and others could use to preserve the Tunnel of Trees. He would like to see examples of options. He also requested a copy of the project priority list. Naomi stated that this is only one piece of the Management Plan Update and to look at the whole management plan. Dale reported that Friendship Township has an ORV resolution that was adopted a couple of years ago. Discussion followed.

Clas Nilstoft asked if there is any noise enforcement by the Michigan State Police, and stated that there is a State law regarding motorcycles. What is the position of the Committee? Henry stated that the Committee and the Michigan Department of Transportation have looked at noise documents and have had discussions at prior meetings. It is very hard to enforce. Patty will get a copy of the motorcycle noise material to Clas.

Rob Deane asked when the Management Plan Update would be available. Patty reported that a hard copy draft would be distributed to the Committee at the October 14th meeting. He also asked about the MDOT heritage route fiscal year 2009 budget. Patty stated that as of now, the amount is the same as fiscal year 2008.

David Kuckelman commented that if there is an agenda item listed, that the issue is addressed and not removed at the meeting. Also, the agenda should state if an item needs an action.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Readmond Township Hall.**

Motion made by Ron Krause, support by Naomi to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.