

**M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 9:30 a.m.  
Cross Village Township Hall**

Members Present

Carolyn Sandford, West Traverse Township  
Joe 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  
Dave Shear, Emmet County Lakeshore Association  
Dell Weitzel, Emmet County Lakeshore Association

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.

**II. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**III. Review Proposed Agenda**

The Committee suggested adding V. New Business e. Emmet County and ORVs Roads Regulation.

**IV. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (May 12, 2009)**

Motion made by Dell Weitzel, support by Rob Deane to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

**V. New Business**

**a. Heritage Route Budget**

Patty O'Donnell reported that the budget for fiscal year 2009 for all three of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments' three heritage routes is \$64,000.

**b. M-119 Committee Open House**

Naomi stated that the annual meeting/open house work group which includes Carolyn Sandford and Patty O'Donnell will be meeting after this meeting to plan and bring a proposed outline to the Committee in July.

**c. Priority Projects Costs**

The priority projects from the Management Plan Update should be looked at each year. The Committee will look at the projects, prioritize, and then decide which is feasible and practical in 2010, then calculate what the costs would be for each project. The Committee members will prioritize the projects at the July meeting. Look for a top priority and layout implementation.

#### **d. Committee Accomplishments/Value of Changing Behavior**

Rob Dean suggested looking at the Committee's accomplishments regarding time, energy, efficiency, money, relevance, and added value. The primary goal of this Committee is the protection of the Tunnel of Trees corridor. Complete an internal report for the September Committee meeting. There was a suggestion to post an annual "report" in the local newspapers or send out media releases on completed projects and educational materials. Discussion followed. It was reported that the powdered brown guardrails are peeling more than last year. Patty will contact MDOT.

#### **e. Emmet County and ORVs Roads Regulation**

The Emmet County Board of Commissioners will be taking up the issue of ORVs and county roads regarding regulations. The Committee stated that they are concerned that although ORVs are not allowed on state highways, that people will still try to use it, especially since there is little enforcement on the Route. Dell stated that he is working on this issue for Readmond Township and is working towards the County adopting which roads to allow the ORVs on, not by Township. Discussion followed. The Committee had sent a letter to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners concerning ORVs leaving the county roads that access M-119 onto the Heritage Route.

### **VI. Old Business**

#### **a. National Scenic Byways Conference**

Patty stated that the Conference is being held August 23-26<sup>th</sup> and one person from each of the three heritage routes is being asked to attend. Naomi added that she is unable to attend and asked if any other Committee members would like to participate. Interested parties will contact Patty.

### **VII. Project Updates**

#### **a. Signs and Heritage Routes Committee**

Patty reported that the Committee held a conference call on May 14<sup>th</sup> to officially start the project that is to be completed by September 30, 2009. A consultant has been hired, Corbin Design to develop the signage strategy. They will be attending the first face to face meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> in Gaylord at the MDOT regional office. Dell will be attending from M-119. The Committee members stated that they have a concern about the adopt-a-highway signs, real estate signs on trees, and in memory of signs.

#### **b. Educational Activities**

##### **1. Guidebook Distribution**

The Committee reviewed the updated version of the Guidebook. There was discussion about the wording on page 6 from the Emmet County Comprehensive Plan. Motion made by Ron Krause, support by Carolyn Sandford to leave the wording in the Guidebook regarding renewable energy. Motion carried 5 for; 4 against.

Distribution:

Townships; Emmet County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners; Realtors; Little Traverse Conservancy; Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Dick Cobb: 100 copies

Dell: 10 copies

Singers: 100 copies

Rob: 50 copies

The Committee recognized Patty for all the work that was done to update the Guidebook which an improvement with all the information in one document that will make it more useful.

## **2. Good Hart Fair**

The Fair is being held on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and the Heritage Route will have a display table again. Patty stated that any volunteers are welcome to help for an hour shift.

## **3. Other Events/Displays**

No suggestions were made at this time.

## **VIII. Correspondence**

Henry Singer gave an update on the phone book distribution and dumping issues. Henry and Naomi visited the dumping site at Wycamp Lake and counted over 120 Yellow Book phone books and took pictures. They reported the incident to the Cross Village Township supervisor, Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the *Petoskey News Review*. Henry and Naomi cleaned up all the Yellow Books and took them to the recycling drop off in Cross Village after stopping at the Cross Village township supervisor's studio and showing him the problem of the dumping in the area park at Wycamp. Henry also contacted the Yellow Book headquarters and they were going to follow up.

## **IX. Committee Member Comment**

1. Naomi contacted the Emmet County Sheriff's office last month prior to the Boyne Highlands Zoo Bar to Mackinaw bicycling event. Other Committee members reported that there were incidents along the route at the Good Hart store and Legs Inn and that additional people contacted the Sheriff's department to complain.

2. Naomi showed a copy of an advertisement in the *Petoskey News Review Graphic* that businesses in the County are and have used M-119 Tunnel of Trees in their advertisements. There was a question if any of the Committee members had heard anything more about the M-119 Tunnel of Trees Audio Tour development. No one has heard anything further.

## **X. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **XI. Announcements**

No announcements.

## **XII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, July 14, 2009** at West Traverse Township Hall.

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