

**Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2009 12:00 noon
Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**

Members Present

Lois Bahle, Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce/TART
Marsha Buehler, Leelanau Township
Sally Guzowski, Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Kimberly Mann, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Tom Nixon, Suttons Bay Township
Joanie Woods, Citizen

Guests

Evelyn Johnson

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Nixon called the meeting to order at 12:05 noon. Introductions were made around the table.

II. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations were made for Tom Nixon to continue as Chair and Marsha Buehler to continue as Vice Chair. Approved by consensus.

III. Review Proposed Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Please add V. d. Northport Future by Design to the agenda. Approved with addition by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (June 23 and October 27, 2008)

Motion made by Lois, support by Joanie Woods to approve the minutes of June 23 and October 27, 2008. Motion carried.

V. New Business

a. Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Sally Guzowski gave an overview of the Chamber:

- Revamping the website
- Exhibiting Leelanau County artists
- Email newsletter
- Under 40 business group – GenNext
- Business After Hours: next one February 12th at the Homestead

The Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce works with all the chambers in the County and will be meeting on February 3rd. Objectives: 1) Agri-tourism; 2) Marketing dollars; 3) Track visitors. Discussed publicity, advertisement and signs with the relationship to the Heritage Route.

b. Barns and Art

Evelyn Johnson presented the idea of painted quilt squares mounted on barns. The idea is from the barn quilt trails in Kentucky, Ohio and Alcona County, MI. Evelyn distributed sample photographs and a flyer. The cost can be between \$100 and \$400 dollars, but the supplies are usually donated with artists or schools developing them. The quilts are usually family heritage patterns. The barns are private property and there are rules in place for viewing. In Kentucky, a book was created and the route is in conjunction with the National Scenic Byways and the National Endowment for the Arts. This project would bring together the art community and quilting groups. The Heritage Route Committee members gave many suggestions for contacts and groups in Leelanau County to work with. This is a wonderful idea for the County.

c. NWMCOG Green Infrastructure Project

Patty O'Donnell presented an overview of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments' Green Infrastructure project. This project is being funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office/Lake Michigan Watershed Academy and is being implemented in the ten county service area. Activities include workshops on low impact development and green infrastructure; working with local governments, land conservancies, and other non-profits to develop a natural resources assets inventory map; distributing the maps and green infrastructure tools and techniques back out into the communities. Projects and actions connection with the Heritage Route include nature preserves, trails, stormwater control, and agriculture to name a few. Discussion followed regarding the invasive plant phragmites in the County. Residents can work with the Leelanau Conservation District. Could the plant be used for biofuel?

d. Northport Future by Design

Marsha Buehler reported on the work being done by Gosling Czubak to implement the Small Town Design Project that was completed by Michigan State University. The community is working on project areas such as streetscapes, the waterfront, wayfinding signs, trails, etc. The community is still looking at extending the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route up M-201 or MDOT reverting the highway to the Village.

VI. Old Business

No Old Business at this time.

VII. Project Updates

a. Signs on the Heritage Routes

Patty reported that she is setting up a subcommittee from the three heritage routes which include Old Mission, Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route and the M-119 Tunnel of Trees to work on the issue of signage on the heritage routes. She asked for volunteers to be on the subcommittee which would meet mostly by teleconferencing. Marsha and Tom volunteered. Marsha added that the main issues are size, design and TODS abiding by their rules.

b. Trailway Project Update

Patty O'Donnell reported that changes to the Trailway Plan and Environmental Assessment maps have been made in Sections 1, 2, and 9. The starting point of the Trailway has been moved to Manning and Norconk Roads south of Empire; the Trailway placement and surface changes were made on LaCore and Voice Roads; and the placement of the Trailway off of Traverse Lake Road. The Plan and Environmental Assessment has to go out again for a 30 day public comment period. The Trailway Work Group and MDOT are moving forward on

Section 5 – Dune Climb to Glen Arbor with the National Scenic Byways grant for design and engineering. Grants are being developed for construction of that section.

c. Elmwood Township Park and Marina Project

No one was present from Elmwood Township. Articles and public meeting announcements have been in the *Leelanau Enterprise*.

d. Omena Buried Utilities Project

Marsha reported the group is still working on the project and seeing if there is interest in the Township regarding the issue of increased power needs. The group is working on approval of an easement behind the store and the other buildings.

e. Empire Streetscape Project

Kimberly Mann stated that the project is completed or close. The area is now covered in snow.

VIII. Educational Opportunities

The committee will be working on the revision of the Guidebook this year. Also, please let Patty know if there are any events that the Heritage Route could have a display or presentation.

IX. Correspondence

No correspondence at this time.

X. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

XI. Announcements

Patty reported that she will be meeting with the Leelanau Independent Women for Democratic Action group to talk about green mapping.

Kim announced that the Port Oneida Fair will be August 7 and 8.

Joanie stated that the Leland Harbor renovations have begun.

Kim added that the M-22 bridge at the Glen Lakes has been removed and is supposed to be completed in September.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Monday, February 23rd at 12:00 noon** at Stonehouse Bread Café in Leland

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.