

**Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 23, 2009 12:00 noon
Leelanau Conservation District**

Members Present

Lee Bowen, Leelanau County Road Commission
Marsha Buehler, Leelanau Township
Steve Christiansen, Leelanau County Parks and Recreation
Kimberly Mann, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Tom Nixon, Suttons Bay Township
Mark Thompson, Maritime Heritage Alliance
Eric Winkelman, Leelanau County Brownfields Redevelopment Authority
Joanie Woods, Citizen

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Review Proposed Agenda

Agenda approved by consensus.

III. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (February 23, 2009)

Motion made by Joanie Woods, support by Kim Mann to approve the minutes of February, 2009.
Motion carried.

IV. New Business

a. MDOT 2009 Projects

Gary Niemi was unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report. The report stated that in 2009 M-72 will be chip sealed from Bugai Road to Empire; M-201 will be a mill and fill (Northport). In 2010, a passing lane will be developed on M-72. Lee Bowen reported that M-22 from about Omena to Northport is in need of major maintenance. Discussion followed.

b. Committee Meetings and Topics

Tom Nixon stated that low attendance at the Committee meetings are becoming an issue. Patty O'Donnell will contact members to poll what days and times would be the best. Tom added that lots of work has been done at the sub-committee level such as the Trailway, Signage, and State Conference. Also, have the organizations and local governments appoint alternates for meeting attendance.

c. Leelanau Conservation District

Buzz Long, Director was unable to attend the meeting so Steve Christiansen gave an overview of some of the District's projects.

- Spring plant sale in the spring and conifer sale in the fall with native species promotion.
- Invasive plants: working in partnership regarding phragmites and removal of Autumn Olive without soil disturbance permit fees (if you disturb one acre or more and not a farm activity)
- Farm-ability program with the Leelanau Conservancy, MSU Extension, MSU Horticultural Station. Working to sign up 5,000 acres for protection and they are half way there in a week and a half. Larger goal is 15,000 acres.

Joanie added that the Conservation District distributes the Wildflower Rescue brochures.

Project Updates e. Leelanau County Tree Planting Project

Steve gave an update on the Tree Planting project that will take place along Leelanau County Roads on public and private property. They are looking first at sugar maples for replacement. They will work in specific areas moving around the county by project. This is a long range project and the next meeting is April 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center.

V. Old Business

No Old Business at this time.

VI. Project Updates

a. Trailway Project Update

Patty reported that the revised Plan and Environmental Assessment is still under the 30 day public comment period which ends on April 4th. MDOT and the National Lakeshore have begun the design and engineering project on Segment 5 – Dune Climb to Glen Arbor. Lee added that the County Road Commission staff has recommended that a boardwalk not be placed for the Trailway on 675 because it would not hold up with snow, especially with all the snow the County received this season. The Trailway work group will be meeting the beginning of April after the public comment period ends.

b. Omena Buried Utilities Project

Marsha reported that the engineering work has been completed and they are waiting to move forward with a property owner.

c. Signs and Heritage Routes Committee

Patty stated that there was some concern with enlarging the Committee to statewide because of the different types of heritage routes, but there is a mutual concern regarding signage in Michigan. The Committee will look at the State of Vermont's model. Patty will send the whole Committee the Heritage Route Act and the TODS legislation. Tom Nixon reported that he did a sign count (all types) on M-22 from Pine View Drive to the M-72 intersection and there were about 240 signs both ways.

d. Northport – Future by Design

Marsha stated that there will be a meeting to work on signage design. The Parks and Recreation Plan is going to incorporate some of the recommendations for the recreational areas and projects in the Plan.

f. Elmwood Township Park and Marina Project

No one was present from Elmwood Township to report.

g. Mapping Project

Patty reported that the Leelanau Independent Women's Group is continuing to work on compiling the sites that they would like to see on the map. It was suggested to tie the mapping project with the signage work.

VII. Educational Activities

a. Suttons Bay High School

Tom Nixon contacted the staff and got approval for the display. Patty will be setting up the display (two tables) in the skylight area for the month of April and maybe longer.

b. Guidebook Update

Patty is continuing to work on the update and will have a draft document in May or June. The Guidebook update will be replace the Guidebook that is on the website.

c. Port Oneida Fair

Kim Mann reiterated that the Fair will be Friday and Saturday, August 7-8th. Patty asked for volunteers to help staff the Heritage Route booth for an hour or two. Discussion followed regarding Fair transportation.

d. Newsletter

Patty asked if the Committee would like to send out a newsletter to all the property owners and municipalities along the Heritage Route. The Committee agreed that it would be a good time for an update since it has been a couple years.

VIII. Correspondence

- Patty reported that Gary Niemi, MDOT sent the question of where the 45th Parallel Park picnic tables had gone to Jeff Hunt the maintenance coordinator.
- Patty stated that she sent Leelanau Day Trips business in Maple City brochures about the Heritage Route for distribution to their customers. They give tours of the County.
- A letter was received to announce that a Suttons Bay Community Joint Planning Commission has been formed. They are in the process of creating a Joint Master Plan.
- The 2009 National Scenic Byways Conference is being held August 23-26 in Denver, Colorado. Patty will be attending and will look into taking the chairs from the three heritage routes.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

X. Announcements

Eric Winkelman announced that there is a Leelanau County Brownfields Redevelopment Authority/Land Bank Authority open house at the Leelanau County Government Center on March 24th.

Mark Thompson reported that the Maritime Heritage Alliance is located in Elmwood Township on the site with the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay and the Great Lakes Children's Museum – "Discovery Center Great Lakes" that Rotary Charities owns and the three organizations sub-lease. Traverse City Light and Power has spent \$75,000 landscaping that harbor area and will be adding some floating docks on the west side. It will be an interpretation area (former coal dock). The Alliance will be having a mentoring project with the Career Tech Center – Champion Sail Program for disadvantaged youth.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Monday, April 27th at 12:00 noon** at Elmwood Township or the Maritime Heritage Alliance.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.