

**Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2009 12:00 noon
Suttons Bay Township Office in Suttons Bay**

Members Present

Lois Bahle, Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce
Lee Bowen, Leelanau County Road Commission
Wally Delamater, Village of Suttons Bay
Gary Niemi, MDOT Traverse City TSC
Barbara Nelson Jameson, NPS – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, Trailway Work Group
Dave Langhorst, MDOT North Region
Kim Mann, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Tom Nixon, Suttons Bay Township
Sharon Oriel, LIWDA
Linda Payment, Village of Empire
Yarrow Wolfe, Leelanau Conservancy

Guests

Kathy Egan, Village of Suttons Bay

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Nixon called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Introductions were made around the table.

II. Review Proposed Agenda

Agenda approved by consensus.

III. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (June 22, 2009)

Motion made by Linda Payment, support by Kim Mann to approve the meeting minutes of June 22, 2009. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

a. Form-based Zoning Tool

Kathy Egan, planner for Village of Suttons Bay, Suttons Bay Township, and Bingham Township presented information on a method of zoning called form-based that reverses traditional zoning. This type of zoning looks only at the form of the building, what it looks like, and the public space around it not the inside use. This is new to Michigan and Grand Rapids has some districts that are form-based. Suttons Bay is the first community to adopt the village as a whole district with form-based zoning. The concept is about space, such as the character of the village or heritage route; care about the look and placement of the buildings; sense of place; this is a tool; restrictive by controlling the form. Suttons Bay Township is looking at form-based zoning and how it would apply to a rural district. There was a suggestion to give form-based training to county planning and all the other local governments in the county to share the experience, get buy in, and approved.

V. Project Updates

a. Mapping Project – baseline map

Patty presented copies of updated baseline map in the form of 7 maps mostly with two townships on each page for the booklet. More sites have been added. Please look at each map for your area and send additions and changes to Patty.

b. Trailway Project Update

Patty reported that the National Lakeshore and the Trailway Work Group have received a few comments, letters to the editor and a Reader's Forum in the *Leelanau Enterprise* against the route in Segment Five at the base of Alligator Hill. And now, comments on the proposed surface of that portion of the Trailway. The Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee wrote a Reader's Forum in the *Leelanau Enterprise* explaining the Trailway process and benefits. The Trailway Plan and Environmental Assessment is sound and has been approved/signed by the National Park Service. Discussion followed regarding standard safety; disabled/handicapped accessible; bike route for residents and visitors. A Trailway Work Group meeting was held on September 3rd at Cleveland Township Hall where the Group took questions and comments from the public. The Group stated that if and when MDOT received the construction grant from the National Scenic Byways Program, then they will look at the proposed asphalt surface at that location and maybe utilize crushed limestone instead taking into consideration the soils, costs, and maintenance in that area.

c. Signs

1. TODS Update

Patty reported that she participated in a site visit with MDOT staff to look at the proposed locations for two new signs for Ciccone Winery that is located on Hilltop Road.

2. Signage and Heritage Routes Committee Strategy

Patty stated that the strategy is in the final completion stage with the consultant, Corbin Design. Over the summer, the following meetings were held: June: face to face in Gaylord; July: conference call; August: face to face in Gaylord. Patty also reported that MI Senator Jason Allen has introduced a bill promoting signs for tourism and that she has contacted the Senator's staff to inform them of this project. They are interested in receiving a copy of the Strategy and working with us. Committee members added that other states have smaller TODS signs and Adopt-a-Highway signs.

Patty added that there was an article in the *Leelanau Enterprise*, "More M-22 signs stolen". Lee Bowen stated that six M-22 signs have been stolen with the last one being in Omena.

d. Elmwood Township Park and Marina Project

No representative present to report at this time.

VI. Old Business

Tom Nixon presented the idea of looking at this state designated route and possibly going for National Scenic Byways status. He stated that first and foremost is to preserve the scenic character of the Route and in the beginning, one of the objectives was not to encourage visitors. National Scenic Byways is a promotional program for the United States with federal monies and activities. Their programs and routes are impressive with many tools to utilize. Tom asked the Committee members to think about it, look at the public's past perception of the Route; should the Chambers of Commerce do the activities as the "agent" who have a vested interest along the route. He suggested that we have a roundtable session as an update on the heritage route and look at national designation. Being proactive in promoting the Route could help preserve the Route.

VII. Educational Activities

a. Guidebook Update - distribution

Patty distributed copies of the revised Guidebook to the meeting attendees.

b. Other Events

Suggested events to have a display at: Empire Heritage Day, October 10th.

VIII. Correspondence

The Heritage Route received a letter from Debbie Slocombe of the Herman Community Park campaign (Suttons Bay Township) about the development of plans for various park amenities and asking for funding assistance.

IX. Committee Member Comments

Tom Nixon: Reported on the trip to the National Scenic Byways Conference in Denver at the end of August and submitted a written report. He stated that the conference was extremely well organized with excellent presentations; most topics were both timely and pertinent to several of the challenges we face on our Route. The conference also had outstanding exhibits and booths with many informal settings to meet and discuss topics of interest with others in attendance. Tom attended the following sessions: Sign Design Elements: Sparking Your Imagination; Working with DOTs to Showcase Natural Beauty on Your Byway; Why Trees Matter: Social, Economic and Environmental Benefits on Byways; Organization Toolkit for Byways; Meeting the Needs of Both the Active and Passive Visitor; Native American Involvement in the National Scenic Byways Program; Developing a Comprehensive Signage and Interpretive Master Plan; Creating a Charismatic Brand for Your Byway.

X. Public Comment

Kathy Egan: Stated that the Village is working on the issue of pedestrian rights and MDOT for M-22. Working with Russ Soyering, Planner for Traverse City; sent letters to the Village of Empire, MI Representative Dan Scripps; and a group in Bellaire.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Monday, October 26th at 12:00 noon** at Cherry Republic Restaurant in Glen Arbor.

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