

**Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 25, 2008 12:00 noon
Inland Seas Education Association, Suttons Bay**

Members Present

Lois Bahle, Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce, TART
Marsha Buehler, Leelanau Township
Greg Julian, Leelanau County Planning Commission
Dave Langhorst, Michigan Department of Transportation
Kimberly Mann, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Tom Nelson, Leelanau Conservancy
Gary Niemi, MDOT Traverse City Transportation Service Center (TSC)
Tom Nixon, Suttons Bay Township
Linda Payment, Village of Empire
Frank Wilcox, Glen Arbor Township
Joanie Woods, Citizen

Guests

Eric Winkelman

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

The agenda was reviewed. Patty stated that agenda item IV. be removed. Agenda approved.

III. Review and Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes (January 28, 2008)

Motion made by Frank Wilcox; support by Marsha Buehler to approve the agenda with deletion. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

a. Inland Seas Education Association

Tom Kelly, Executive Director of the Association stated that Inland Seas was started in 1989. They purchased the old Northern Lumber building, renovated it, and moved in November of 2003. The Association provides educational activities and utilizes the Schoolship, the Liberty and the Manitou boats. The activities range from youth (schools) to adults. At their Center, they have a boat shop, wet laboratory, a classroom, exhibits, and a constructed wetland demonstration project near the shore for stormwater runoff.

b. Water Trails

Barbara Nelson Jameson presented information on Michigan water trails. These trails carry people from one place to another; provide access to the waterway, resting points, and camping. They promote a sense of place – ecological, historical, cultural, recreational,

interpretive, story based and are created, maintained, and promoted through collaboration and partnerships. Industries also lend support such www.paddling.net.

Grand Traverse Bay could provide point to point excursions; create maps, create sites, and have family friendly distances. The Boardman River is listed as a water trail, but is not officially called one, but there is information about travelling the river at the Grand Traverse Conservation District. There is a huge natural resource base for water trails that includes federal and state public lands and a water based infrastructure in place. The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is looking at water trails in the General Management Plan (GMP). MDOT's 45th Parallel Park could be a stop over site on Grand Traverse Bay.

V. Old Business

a. Michigan Statewide Heritage Route Conference Update

Patty reported that the Council of Governments received project authorization to plan, implement, and host the first statewide heritage route conference in Traverse City. The conference committee is working on offering tours on the first day in the afternoon on Old Mission Peninsula and on east M-22 along Grand Traverse Bay. Joanie Woods asked if the tour could stop at Fishtown. Patty said the committee will look into the scheduling and timing. The conference will be at the Hagerty Center at the Northwestern Michigan College Great Lakes Campus. Patty will work on getting rooms set aside at the Bayshore Resort and Holiday Inn which are next door to the conference center. Naomi Singer from the M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route is joining the committee of Kim Mann and Tom Nixon. Input will be requested from the other heritage route coordinators. Educational and promotional materials will be gathered from the area for the participants.

b. Educational Activities

Patty stated that the display will be put up at the Suttons Bay Library for the month of March and she will visit Leland Schools to look over a location for the display in April. She contacted the Glen Lake Library and will be contacting others.

VI. Project Updates

a. Trailway Project Update

Patty reported that Mike Duwe, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Planner, Barbara Nelson Jameson and she are continuing to work on the Environmental Assessment and Pre-Engineering plan. This will be reviewed by Park Management and then taken out to the local governments with a public input session/open house. There will be a Trailway Work Group meeting following this meeting.

b. Wayfinding Map for the Statewide Heritage Route Conference

The Wayfinding Signs subcommittee of Joanie, Marsha, Tom Nelson, and Tom Nixon will meet after the March 31st meeting to go over the map from the wayfinding sign project to enhance it for the conference.

c. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore General Management Plan

Kim Mann distributed a paper by Ryan Locke, Historic Landscape Architect Intern at the Lakeshore. This paper promoted the protection of the viewsheds along the heritage route that goes through the Lakeshore and gave the following recommendations:

- Formally present this concern to park management before the GMP is finalized.

- Document the portions of M-22/M-109 that provide key viewsheds. Photograph these areas and use aerial photographs to determine which portions of land need to be maintained.
- Determine what amount of land should be maintained.
- Designate certain areas to remain open fields by removing succession growth.

Kim suggested that the Committee retake photographs of the specific viewshed areas such as the Windy Moraine area view on M-109. Patty will bring the pictures we do have to discuss at the March meeting. The Committee will try and schedule the May meeting at the Lakeshore Office to talk with Tom Ulrich and Mike Duwe about the General Management Plan.

d. Elmwood Township Park and Marina Project

No representative to report.

e. Omena Buried Utilities Project

Marsha stated that there has been no information yet from Consumers Power to move forward.

f. Streetscape Project Updates

1. Empire: Gary Niemi reported that the Empire Streetscape project was been let out for bids on February 29th by MDOT.

2. Leland: Patty stated that she had met with Kate Vilter to talk about the latest drawings of the project and the funding that is needed from the community for match. Joanie inquired about an historic directional sign for Fishtown on M-22 because she had not heard back from the Traverse City TSC from the last Committee meeting. Gary said that he would check on it.

VII. Public Comment

Greg Julian talked about challenges of the other activities off of the Heritage Route that the Committee could support to promote tourism and family activities in the County.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Monday, March 31, 2008 at 12:00 noon** at the new Leelanau County Governmental Center on M-204 near Lake Leelanau. Greg Julian will check on this and schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.