

**Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 19, 2008 12:00 noon  
Great Lakes Children's Museum in Greilickville**

Members Present

Lois Bahle, Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce/TART  
Marsha Buehler, Leelanau Township  
Greg Julian, Leelanau County Planning Commission  
Lori Leugers, Elmwood Township  
Tom Nixon, Suttons Bay Township  
Fred Plamondon, Elmwood Township

Guests

Owen Bahle  
Don Coe, MOA/Black Star Farms

Staff Present

Patty O'Donnell, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Tom Nixon called the meeting to order at 12:09 noon. Introductions were made around the table.

**II. Review Proposed Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed. The Committee removed IV. New Business. a. Great Lakes Children's Museum due to no representative present. Agenda approved.

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

The April 28, 2008 minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Greg Julian, seconded by Fred Plamondon to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**IV. New Business**

**a. M-201 Heritage Route Designation Amendment**

Patty O'Donnell reported that a couple people from the Village of Northport approached her and Marsha Buehler with the idea to add M-201 through Northport to the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route. Motion made by Lois Bahle, seconded by Lori Leugers to look into amending the Heritage Route Management Plan to add M-201 as part of the Heritage Route. Motion carried. Patty will make contacts to see if the Committee should move forward with the process.

**V. Project Updates**

**a. Wayfinding Signs Project**

Don Coe introduced himself and stated that he is a member of the State Commission of Agriculture which develops the state agricultural policy. He talked about agri-tourism and value added agriculture, and that the agricultural sector is growing in Michigan and promote local production and local consumption – growing, process, retail, market directly at the farm. There are 73,000 farms and 220 different crops. Michigan is second to California in variety of crops. The farms average about 114 acres and in northern, lower Michigan about 160 acres.

In the report to the Governor, signage for the farm businesses was a big issue and that it be available to farmers to promote their products. They felt that the TODS signs is working the best in Michigan and that it should also be looked at for county roads. Signage should be uniform with uniform standards. This issue will be presented and discussed at the Michigan Heritage Route Statewide Conference in September.

#### **b. Trailway Project Update**

Patty reported that she, Mike Duwe, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Planner and Barbara Nelson Jameson are getting towards the final draft. There is still work to be done on correcting the section maps with Gosling Czubak and two of the appendices are still needed from them. The work to be done: the final draft will be reviewed by Park Management and the Trailway Group; and be presented to the local governments; before going to the local governments, a meeting will be held with MDOT to discuss funding, maintenance and any agreements that are needed; the Plan will then be out for public comment.

#### **c. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore General Management Plan**

There was encouragement for the Committee members to attend the Lakeshore's open houses if they have any comments or suggestions. Comments can also be made online and all comments are due by June 13<sup>th</sup>. The proposed Trailway project is in the proposed General Management Plan.

#### **d. Elmwood Township Park and Marina Project**

Fred Plamondon reported that the Township is still waiting for the legislature regarding the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant distribution and are ready to start the engineering phase of the project. They are seeking input from the different entities in the project area on the lakeside to coordinate new restrooms. He distributed copies of the Parks and Recreation Commission's meeting minutes for March and April. There will be a "Blessing of the Fleet" by the United Boaters of Elmwood Township on Saturday, May 31 at the marina. Patty will make contact with the organizers to have the Heritage Route display there.

Fred showed pictures of their recreational facilities and events. The park gets a lot of use and they have great volunteers to help with clean ups.

#### **e. Omena Buried Utilities Project**

Marsha stated that there was no report at this time.

#### **f. Streetscape Project Updates**

**1. Empire:** There were no MDOT representatives to report at this time.

### **VI. Old Business**

#### **a. Michigan Statewide Heritage Route Conference Update**

Patty reported the Committee is working on the breakout and plenary sessions and presenters/speakers. The next Committee meeting/conference call will be Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Patty is continuing to work on the transportation services for the two tours – Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route and Old Mission Peninsula Scenic Heritage Route. There was a suggestion that maybe there could be host homes for the conference speakers accommodations.

## **1. Wayfinding Map for the Statewide Heritage Route Conference**

The Council of Governments' mapping staff continues to work on the additions which then will be sent to the Communications staff to develop the map brochure.

### **b. Educational Activities**

Patty stated that the display will be put up on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Northwestern Bank window in Suttons Bay for the month of June. She sent Terry Ely an email to have the display at the Leelanau County Chamber of Commerce office, but has not received a response.

## **VII. Announcements**

Tom Nixon reported that the Heritage Route Committee had a great participation at the Leelanau County Grand Vision workshop at the Suttons Bay High School. Patty counted nine members.

For the Committee's information: Senate Bill No. 351 has been introduced to state... a *county*, city, village, township, or charter township may enact ordinances to regulate and control the size, lighting, and spacing of signs and sign structures...

### **Public Comment**

Owen Bahle stated that since Leelanau County was somewhat off the beaten path in the past there was a big sign where Tom's West Bay is now that said, "Visit Leelanau County. Do not pick the wildflowers." When M-22 was being dedicated the people did not know what to call it. So, there was a contest in 1953 for a prize of \$10.00, to send in proposed names to Owen. The winner was "Mackinaw Trail".

## **VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the summer potluck picnic, **Monday, June 23, 2008 at 12:00 noon** at the Village of Suttons Bay North Park at the intersection of M-22 and M-204 on the Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.