

MINUTES

Chassell Township Planning Commission Meeting

Dated: February 12, 2019

Chassell Fire Hall

Attendance: Ericka Malone, Julie Meyers, Keith Meyers, Brian Waters, Dillon Geshel, Dan Palosaari, Doug Hamar

1. Call to Order 7:02
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the Agenda Doug move to approve, Brian Second
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes Brian move to approve with changes, Keith seconds.
5. Public Comments
 - a. Rachel McDonald - Candidate for Conservation District for Houghton and Keweenaw Board. Lives in Chassell Twp. Graduated from Michigan Tech. Currently works as a forester for KBIC in Baraga. Interested in being on the board because she previously worked as forestry assistance for Houghton and Keweenaw Board. Funding was cut and there is no longer a forester for the Board, Houghton County is the only County without a forester. She is familiar with necessary grants and appropriate contacts in the area. April 20th is the election date. Gina Nicholas-Chairperson to contact with a recommendation. wildlandco@gmail.com
6. Road Commission Report
 - a. Pete not present. Unsure if he attended the last meeting.
 - b. News article about Fed Hw Admin Funding assistance to communities. Counties are still 5 million short of funds. See attached for article.
7. Old Business
 - a. Chassell Township Logo
 - i. Nothing new
 - b. Chassell Mercantile Update
 - i. Action has been filed with the Court. Waiting for a response. See attached letter for details.

- c. Blight Ordinance Survey
 - i. On hold until after zoning
- d. Historical Trail Update
 - i. Getting ready to GPS the site in the next 3 weeks. Potential story on TV6 Discovering.
- e. Zoning Ordinance Review
 - i. Still a work on progress
- f. Community Center Update
 - i. Owner-Structural Engineer/Licensed Builder, concern with break-in
 - ii. 70' beam is jacked into place under the main floor to reinforce
 - iii. Owner has a long term plan for the building-Turn it into an art studio and open to other local artists, restaurant in the back, Keith recommended something similar to 101 Quincy in Hancock for the Summer Months.
 - iv. Plan to help the owner get funding for project. MEDC has many opportunities. Owner is currently determining what his budget would be.
- g. DNR Recreation Grant Workshop
 - i. Summary of grants available. See handout from last month.
 - ii. Funding available should be similar to last years.
- h. Launch Site Engineering Study RFP
 - i. Tomorrow at 3pm is the deadline for proposals. Already received 1, anticipating at least 1 more.

8. New Business

- a. 2018/2023 Recreation Plan Update
 - i. Not officially submitted, was just uploaded. Contacted Lansing, currently going through the review process. It will be treated like we've been operating a year in. Waterways Grant did not require a Rec Plan in place so that grant is in good standing.
- b. Portage Health Foundation Grant
 - i. Keith submitted letter of inquiry seeking approval of fitness trail and dog park. We were given approval on the fitness trail only.
 - ii. A proposal needs to be completed by March 17th for funding.
 - iii. Working with Ken Vrana's class on the development of the proposal.
 - iv. Wood shop at Chassell School to contribute construction material
 - v. Keith moves that we seek approval from the board tomorrow to allow us to move forward with a proposal to the Portage Health Foundation for their current grants for the fitness trail as set forth in

our recreation plan. Dillon Seconds.

- c. WUPPDR Community Marketing Grant
 - i. Now accepting applications.
 - ii. Up to \$8,000 for marketing (signage, websites etc)
 - iii. Potential to talk with the Lion's Club for updating Strawberry Festival Banners
 - iv. Or replace Lightpole banners. Potentially mirror Houghton's with recreation activities.
 - d. Redevelopment Ready Community Self-Evaluation
 - e. TV 6 Discovering
 - i. Mentioned above under historic walking trail. It is a series on TV 6 where we could potentially feature some of the local projects we're working on.
 - f. Master Plan
 - i. Needs to be completed for the self-evaluation.
 - ii. On hold until zoning is completed
 - g. Michigan Association of Planning (MAP)
 - i. Coordinate with WUPPDR, if enough interest they'll hold a workshop for communities.
 - ii. Workshops available zoning, planning, site plans, and planning commissions.
 - iii. Brian moves we propose that the board recommend that we express interest to WUPPDR to the attend 1 or 2 of the workshops provided by MAP. Doug seconds.
 - h. Recreational Marijuana Law - Opt Out?
 - i. Board wants to do nothing right now.
 - ii. Brian plans to bring it to the township to recommend opting out. There is concern that the township has misunderstood.
 - i. Ray's TV Dangerous Building?
 - i. Broken windows
 - ii. Members to meet and look at
 - j. Michael Mallow's Business Plan
 - i. Planning to submit to the realtor this week.
 - ii. Prepping bread dough-brings complications
9. Ericka to email brian update minutes from January

Next meeting date - March 7, 2019 7pm

9. Adjourn Brian move. Doug support. All aye