

# MINUTES

## Chassell Township

### Planning Commission Meeting

Dated: December 5, 2019  
Chassell Fire Hall

1. Call to Order 7:06. Attendance: Brian Waters, Keith Meyers (via phone), Dale Peterson, Peter Torola, Doug Hamar, Dan Palosaari (arrived 7:15)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the Agenda Brian moves to approve, Doug seconds. All aye
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes. Dale moves to accept the minutes with corrections supported by Brian. All aye. Discussed that Brian will send out minutes prior to meeting so the committee can review prior to the meeting.
5. Public Comments
  - a. Resident present to stated opposition to the construction of the Dollar General.
  - b. Resident had flyers for the Old Fashion Christmas in Chassell to display.
  - c. Pete Torola will be conducting a training session at Stanton Township on January 14 from 9-12 pm, Transportation Asset Management for Local Officials.
  - d. Jeff Ratcliffe-Executive Director, KEDA-comments on the General Store- our current zoning ordinance we don't have the ability to manage or set parameters on where a business can build. He suggests sitting down with company to work on "elements" that might fit better with our downtown area business district. For example: color scheme, signage, landscaping. Resident questioned why there was no Public Hearing for the building permit. ~~Jack~~ Jeff commented that our ordinance as it is now is a, "use permitted by right". No public hearing/comments are required for permit. The township should seek legal counsel if they want to have a building moratorium.
  - e. Matt Torreano DNR rail-trail status- DNR is working with UPEA on design completion by mid-February/early March for 25 of the 30 different sites (culverts) affected by Father's Day storm. DNR is still working with MDOT to get the Pilgrim River Bridge (Portage Twp.) repaired. Future rail use vs pedestrian use is still to be determined. Peepsock Creek (Portage Twp.)-by former Superior Rental & Sales will have new culvert installed by MDOT. Big issue is private culverts downstream and not knowing where water goes. He estimates the trail will be open in 2 years. ~~Jack~~ Jeff Ratcliffe suggested we contact our legislators to raise awareness and generate more funds. Keith Meyers will contact former colleague about possible federal funds. Matt suggests that a Recreation Authority be formed so grants can be applied for.

6. Road Commission Report

- a. HCRC calendar for 2020 has been sent. They will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month except for 1/13/20, 4/27/20, 11/7/20.
- b. Massie Rd.-no FEMA funds yet.
- c. No Supervisor meeting with HCRC till FEMA funds determined.
- d. Dan Palosaari questioned the HCRC not plowing and why? Lack of man power, funds? Pete will ask at the next HCRC meeting.

7. Old Business

- a. Chassell Township Logo-Steve Spahn would like to have a contest like what was done for the dog park sign. Could the PC come up with a prize for the winner?
- b. Chassell Mercantile Update-Keith called the township lawyer but no response.
- c. Historical Trail Update-Doug will meet with Keith to fill out the application.
- d. Community Center Update-Don needs to meet with OHM on drawings.
- e. Sturgeon River Engineering Report- Traverse Engineering will review study with Brian and Keith. The study will be presented at the January board meeting.
- f. Centennial Park Accessibility Report-plan to work on in the spring.
- g. Cemetery Church-Dangerous Building-Heath Sundstrom has been contacted for written report to clarify current ownership. The building is continuing to deteriorate.
- h. Fitness Trail Signage-Steve Spahn said the wood shop class is willing to do the signs. Also the class wants to help with the warming building project. Jim Tervo and "G" have worked on mapping the ski trails. "G" will coordinate with Jay Federoko to map the snow shoe trails.

8. New Business

- a. Matt Torreano DNR rail-trail status (see above Public Comment)
- b. Zoning Ordinance Draft-Doug needs to update the 2009 school property on zoning map. One more Public Hearing. Motion by Brian to present draft to board, supported by Pete. All Aye.
- c. Future Portage Health Foundation Grant-Warming Building at ski trail!
- d. 2018-2023 Recreation Plan-Final approval received 12/4/19
- e. Master Plan Committee-will meet after Zoning Ordinance approved by board

Next meeting date – January 2, 2020 7pm

Adjourn Brian moves to adjourn 8:16pm. All aye.

*Brian* 1-2-20