

MINUTES

08 May 2025 / 7:00 PM / Chassell Fire Hall

ATTENDEES

Steve Spahn, Brian Waters, Keith Meyers, Cindy Cowell, Doug Hamar, Board Member, Township Treasurer Andrea Aho

AGENDA

1. Call to Order 7:02

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda B. Waters made an addition to the agenda. B. Waters moved to approve the agenda. D. Hamar seconded. All aye M/C

4. Reading and Approval of April Minutes K. Meyers move to approve the April minutes as written. B Waters seconded. All Aye. M/C

5. Public Comments None

6. Road Commission Report and 5-year Road Plan Discussion No report. Commission discussion of South Entry Road needing work and its inclusion in the five year plan. Commission will communicate with county.

7. Zoning Will be discussed in New Business

8. Capital Improvement Committee Report No report

9. Recreation Committee Report K. Meyers discussed the softball field. The field fell in the top five identified projects in the 5-year rec plan. Meyers reports that the committee has gathered information on work needed currently. Projects are being designated for immediate attention and for addressing after the current season ends. Meyers also gave an update on the status of a splashpad installation at the park. Water demand would be high for the village water system. The committee is working with EGLE to explore lake water options. If a plan can be agreed upon, a grant application due on May 12 will be submitted to Copper Shores Foundation.

10. Recreation Facility Issues C Cowell brought an issue of golf balls being hit out into the lake at the park. The commission agreed that this issue needs to be explored and addressed. K. Meyers offered to reach out to the DNR to inquire if they have feedback on this issue locally before moving forward with any action.

11. Old Business

- a. **Chassell Mercantile Update** K. Meyers gave a report. MEDC final approval is expected for May 20. Site work is slated to begin the last week of May.
- b. **Snowmobile Trail Update** No update. K. Meyers discussed that there is an increase in recreational vehicles riding on roadways. This may be the time to reconvene a group to relaunch exploration of a trail that runs all the way into Painesdale.
- c. **Centennial Park Engineering Study** The study has been updated to include the property acquired adjoining the park. The study will be finalized after the upcoming meeting with EGLE to assure the study includes all necessary areas of the property
- d. **Holy Trinity Old Church** As was reported previously, the contractor is ready to begin removal of the building. Spring road weight restrictions disallow heavy equipment. Should be off within the next two weeks. Work will begin. Meyers reported that the contractor will work under a constant spray of water over the materials.
- e. **Sturgeon River Launch Improvements** K. Meyers reiterated that two grant proposals have been submitted and are currently under review to support launch area improvements. The river and sloughs inclusion in the Keweenaw Water Trails mapping is underway. Meyers suggested that the Commission request a portable latrine be installed at the launch until a vault toilet can be built. K. Myers moved that the Commission as the Board to fund a rental latrine at the kayak launch. B Waters seconded. All aye. M/C
- f. **Keweenaw Water Trail** K. Meyers reports that Visit Keweenaw is guiding the Waterway mapping and project.
- g. **Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration** K. Meyers reports that according to Andy Powers from MDOT, a third RFP is being prepared by MDOT for the removal of the rails from Arnheim to Chassell. This RFP will be only for removal, and not include contractor sale of the rails. Once the rail removal is complete, MDOT will not have oversight of the trail, oversight will move to the DNR. Meyers discussed the value of the trail once it is complete and leads into Chassell. With this value, Meyers suggested communicating with our state legislators regarding the project and the potential for a positive economic impact to the area. Meyers shared that Bert Mason, who ran in the 109th district primary in August is a supporter of ORV recreation, is from Baraga, and might be a great champion to ask to support the trail project. Park Boardwalk Project - Did not receive the Portage Health Foundation grant. Keith is in discussion with Merrie Carlock with the DNR on potential upcoming funding.
- h. **Historical Trail Buckthorn Project** No report
- i. **Hamar Creek Restoration Project** K. Meyers has contacted Chris Nault from the DNR to do a creek inspection now that the snow melt is complete. No set date.
- j. **Cemetery Mapping** No report
- k. **Cemetery Landscaping** B. Waters reports that a large tree has come down. D. Hamar reports that he has received landscaping suggestions from the Township Supervisor. Hamar indicates that he will pursue renderings with the suggestions received. A discussion was held around a potential contest to garner ideas for a sculpture made out of the large pine stump in the cemetery.
- l. **Rail-Trail** K. Meyers shared an informal conversation with a Portage Township resident along the north trail. The resident thinks that model of township ownership of the trail is an effective partnership and would

like to ask Portage Township to explore the same model. B. Waters asked about the status of the trail water drainage area behind the old mercantile foundation. K. Meyers reports that the drainage is working-a permanent fix will be made at the time of the mercantile construction project. B. Waters inquired about the condition of the trail at the Pike River bridge. D. Hamar suggested reaching out to the DNR for input on trail repair. K. Meyers will make the DNR contact.

- m. Disc Golf Course** S. Spahn reports that the oversight plan with the school remains and the course will be open for play soon.
- n. Park Bathroom Remodeling** The project is on track to meet the June 1 completion date. K Meyers added that the last piece of the Spark Grant project will be implemented. An adjustable boat ramp dock will be installed in the launch area at the park.
- o. Marina Development** K. Meyers will contact Matt Lubejko from the DNR later in the spring to review all pieces of the marina project to map out all of the regulatory requirements. Meyers reports that EGLE is hosting a webinar on May 15 named "water resources friendly marina development: recommendations for MI." Meyers will attend the webinar.
- p. Mountain bike trail/Skills track/Visit Keweenaw Destination Development Grant** K. Meyers reports that an official grant determination has not been received, but other trails report being contacted to implement their plans, so he takes this news as Chassell's application will not be funded. Meyers reports that the Rec Comm discussed other fundraisers to meet the funds that the grant would have provided. The PC picked up the Rec Committee discussion and supports a Go Fund Me to raise needed capital for the project. K. Meyers move that the PC request the Board to approve a Go Fund Me campaign for the project. B. Waters seconded. All aye. M/C
- q. Great Lakes Scuba Diving & Lake Preservation Group Clean Up Project** No report. PC member suggested that a diver from this group may be able to retrieve the chain for the park swim raft from the lake.
- r. Splash Pad** included in discussion under 9. Recc Comm report
- s. Disaster Emergency Program** The Houghton County Sheriff indicated that there is a county emergency plan in place. The county has a Director of Emergency Measures Director. Curt Judson, Fire Chief, is aware of the plan. Sheriff Saaranen indicated that he would attend a Board of PC meeting at any time to outline the county emergency measures plan.

12. New Business

- a. Misslitz Field Improvements** Further discussion of the softball field projects needed was held. K. Meyers indicates that the Recc Comm will bring a package of action items regarding the field to the Board for approval at next week's meeting. Meyers shared that a township resident has volunteered to power wash the stands. Meyers also shared that the landscape person from the Kew Historical National Park is willing to visit the site to review water runoff from the field and around the Heritage Center. A discussion followed regarding spring thaw water that got into the x country ski trail equipment shed. B. Waters shared that a culvert in that area received damage during road commission work and allows water to pond. Waters will remind Kevin Harju from the Road Commission that the culvert needs repair.
- b. Blight Violation 7.2-4 and additional health issue** The PC discussed two blight issues. K. Meyers read a proactive letter proposed to send regarding a property and ordinance 7.2.5. The PC agreed to send the

letter. A second issue regards excessive refuse in a yard. The PC discussed options to address the issue.

- c. **Launch Fee Collection** It is a regular issue that boat launchers are not obtaining a pass for launch. B. Waters has discussed the issue with the Houghton County Sheriff. Waters reports that the Board can work with zoning and write an ordinance requiring the launch pass. Once passed, boat launchers can be ticketed when a vehicle and trailer are parked at the launch with no pass displayed. The county will collect the ticket fees. It was suggested to put up a sign stating the violation fee once the ordinance is in place. K. Meyers suggested discussing the plan with the Board to get their approval to move forward.

S. Spahn shared that the Chassell will set up a time to meet with PC members at the trail system to gather information needed in order to make the trail signs.

C. Cowell shared three MI Rural Grant opportunity RFPs with the PC to inquire if they have ever been pursued. The due dates would be at the end of 2025 or early 2026. Cowell agreed to research and share greater detail in June.

K. Meyers reported that he shared a grant opportunity with the owners of Tactical Taco.

NEXT MEETING

June 5, 2025 7 pm Chassell Township Fire Hall

Adjourn B. Waters made a motion to adjourn. K. Meyers seconded. All aye. M/C Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.