

Chassell Township Planning Commission

MINUTES

05 June 2025 / 7:00 PM / Chassell Fire Hall

ATTENDEES

Steve Spahn, Brian Waters, Keith Meyers, Cindy Cowell, Doug Hamar

AGENDA

1.Call to Order 7:00 pm

2.Pledge of Allegiance

3.Approval of the Agenda Brian Waters motioned, Doug Hamar second, all aye M/C

4.Reading and Approval of May Minutes Doug Hamar requested a change of language under cemetery landscaping from “landscaping plans” to “ideas.” Doug Hamar motioned to approve minutes with changes, K. Meyers second, all aye.M/C

5.Public Comments No Comments

6.Road Commission Report L. Gierke and D. Palosaari attended the last Road Commission meeting. Gierke and Palosaari discussed the culvert on Hancock Street. Road Commission reports that the culvert repair is part of the FEMA money to make Father’s Day flood repairs. Money has not been forthcoming at this date. K. Meyer suggest we discuss the faulty culvert and consequent localized flooding with the Road Commission again and offered to reach out to them.

7. Zoning An issue discussed in May was revisited. A property has significant garbage kept outside. The P.C. will contact the property owner to remediate.

A planned flyer outlining short and long term rentals will be going out to community residents.

A community reminder of the blight fund was also discussed. Copper Shores Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for donations.

8.Capital Improvement Committee Report Tabled until July

9.Recreation Committee Report Report will be given later in the agenda

10.Recreation Facility Issues B. Waters reported a bowed timber on the new boardwalk at Centennial Park. K. Meyers suggested that the timber be brought to the attention of C. Holmes and repaired during the completion of the boardwalk entry. K. Meyers reported that the first three bridges on the ski/fitness trail need maintenance.

11.Old Business

a. Chassell Mercantile Update Work will begin on June 9

- b. Snowmobile Trail Update** K. Meyers will reconvene the working group to collaborate with the recreation committee to move the trail project forward. Myers will invite the additional group members to the rec committee meeting next week.
- c. Centennial Park Engineering Study** The study is not finalized. Study will include the EGLE meeting report. Research has been done on marina slip demand in the area. All pieces of information will be included in the final engineering study.
- d. Old Holy Trinity Church** Contractor will mobilize next Tuesday. Coordination will be done with the fire department to access a hydrant to spray water on the building during demolition.
- e. Sturgeon River Launch Improvements** EGLE has indicated that a dredge permit is required to clear the silt built up at launch from spring log jam against highway bridge. K. Meyer is working on acquiring the permit. Clearance from the Corp of Engineers will be required also.
- f. Keweenaw Water Trail** Jerald Wuorenmaa and his team are collecting trail asset information to update the water trail website. Wuorenmaa will connect with Visit Keweenaw to move the project forward.
- g. Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration** K. Meyers contacted Andy Meyers for an update on the most recent RFP for rail removal. No update as of this date.
- h. Historical Trail Buckthorn Project** K. Meyers talked with MTU professor regarding continued removal. A group is working on Monday to cut sprigs off of the fresh cut Buckthorn—all volunteers are encouraged to attend.
- i. Hamar Creek Restoration Project** Chris Nault from the DNR, Casey Hutchinson from MTU, K Meyers and B Waters met at the creek on May 13. Survey and discussion was held about options to restore the mouth of the creek. EGLE permitting will be required.
- j. Cemetery Mapping** Tabled
- k. Cemetery Landscaping** Tabled
- l. Rail-Trail** K Meyers reports that Carly Graff, Trails Specialist for the DNR has placed the redecking of the Pike River Bridge into the DNR master list for projects. A possible collaboration between the Township and the DNR to complete the project is being explored. Township needs to prove need for the bridge as a key link in the trail system in order to qualify to be a DNR project. Importance to Baraga/Chassell trail will help fill this requirement.
- m. Disc Golf Course** The course does not need to be an agenda item going forward. Running smoothly.
- n. Park Bathroom Remodeling** One issue to complete ADA compliance is being worked on by UPEA.
- o. Marina Development** K Meyers reports that a preliminary evaluation meeting was held with Matt Lbjeko prior to pursuing needed permitting. Lbjeko was positive regarding the project. A meeting takeaway was that a seawall will not be used for the project. Any info gleaned from the meeting will be included in the park engineering study. A discussion was held regarding marina slip demand and pricing
- p. Mountain Bike Trail/Skills Track** K. Meyers reports another conversation with trail promoters Brett and Eric Palosaari. Palosaaris indicated that a U.P. Foundation is interested in supporting the trail/track. The trail/track will need to be under the purvey of a non-profit group and not the Township to qualify for this funding.
- q. Great Lakes Scuba Diving and Lake Preservation Group Clean Up Project** B. Waters reached out to the group to firm up assessment of tires under the water in order to schedule an EGLE tire collection event around the clean up.

- r. **Splash Pad** A conversation was held with Jared Sanders at EGLE regarding water supply for the pad. Lake water may not be a viable option. Any treatment of the water would require a pool license. K Meyers will reach out to the Health Department for feedback.
- s. **Misslitz Field Improvements** The PC will ask the Township Board to approve work for a fence above the ravine, a batting cage and to replace the steps on the first base side of the field.
- t. **Blight Violation 7.2-7.4 and additional health issue** The property that received a letter regarding grass height violations remains in violation. A citation has been mailed. A discussion ensued regarding rural, nonrural and industrial areas and the ordinance.

12. New Business

- a. **Pickleball Court Sign** A discussion about language included on the sign was held. The recreation committee will finalize the language at their meeting next week. D. Hamar moved to give the Recreation Committee authority to finalize the sign. K. Meyers seconds. All Aye. M/C
- b. **Launch Fee Sign** The PC decided to install new launch fees in 2026. The current sign will be updated to encourage payment of launch fees. K Meyers reported that he has received feedback that annual passes are difficult to purchase. PC discussed options for fee payment. D Hamar suggest that PC research fees and methods appropriate for a community Chassell's size.
- c. **Fitness Trail Signage** K Meyer and S Spahn walked the trail with Trish Tervo and sophomore students from Chassell School to assess what signage is needed. Students made sign mock ups for PC review. Sign designs and size were chosen.
- d. **Strawberry Festival Booth** The PC will share booth space with Julie Meyer. PC members will staff the booth throughout the festival. PC members will take community questions and share information about Township success stories such as the Blight Fund availability, blight removal and featuring drawings of the mercantile downtown project.
- e. **Redevelopment Ready Community Deliverables** Pablo Majano from MEDC is assisting the township prepare for the redevelopment ready package. The township will prepare and submit some of the required docs in July. Chassell has been the smallest town allowed to participate in the program.
- f. **Non agenda item** C Cowell discussed the MI Office of Rural Prosperity Rural Readiness Grant Program. Letters of Intent are due on June 30. K Meyers took grant application materials. Cowell suggested that Chassell Township assemble and participate as a Rural Readiness team. B Waters asked Cowell to research assembling a team.

K. Meyers discussed the issue of motorized four wheelers riding on the rail trail and in the Centennial Park. Township Supervisor has gotten advisement from the county sheriff regarding motorized vehicles on the non-motorized trail.

Next meeting July 3, 2025 7 pm at the Chassell Township Firehall

Adjourn B Waters made a motion to adjourn. D Hamar seconded. All Aye. M/C
Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm