

Chassell Township Planning Commission

MINUTES

04 December 2025 / 7:00 PM / Chassell Fire Hall

ATTENDEES

Steve Spahn, Brian Waters, Keith Meyers, Cindy Cowell, Doug Hamar, community member Molly Ploe

AGENDA

1. Call to Order 7:03

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda D. Hamar motioned to approve the agenda. B. Waters seconded. All aye M/C

4. Reading and Approval of October Minutes C. Cowell pointed out a typo in s. Also, correction made in spelling in old business n. D. Hamar moved to approve the October 2025 minutes with corrections. K. Meyers seconded. All Aye. M/C

5. Public Comments M. Ploe brought up an issue with dumping of various debris at the end of Hancock Street. Ploe has seen trash, materials, organic scraps, and recently a power chair. In addition, winter snow removal from the area is dumped in the area. The PC discussed the issue and determined that a no dumping sign will be installed. B Waters suggested discussing the issue with Craig Austin and the Road Commission to get input. K Meyers pointed out yard waste dumping in other areas of town and suggested a reminder about proper disposal.

6. Road Commission Report and 5-year Road Plan Discussion The five year plan was reviewed. Creamery Road and Half Moon Beach Road remain priorities. Cowell asked about flooding issues around Creamery Road and the timeline for addressing flooding and road repair. K Meyers moved to approve the plan as presented. B Waters seconded. All Aye. M/C

7. Zoning No Report

8. Capital Improvement Committee Report Gierke, Hamar and Austin will meet. Hamar overviewed software that can be used to inventory the assets of a municipality. Hamar noted that the software company is willing to work with Chassell to add items if the current version doesn't allow inventory of all our asset categories. In addition, tracking, such as depreciation and life expectancy, is included in inventory. Software is cloud based, so a software download is not needed to run. Hamar noted that cost was reasonable.

9. Recreation Committee Report No Report.

10. Recreation Facility Issues C Cowell brought an issue of accessing Centennial Park bathrooms from inside the community room. B Waters will look into door stops to ensure indoor utilization of bathrooms.

11. Old Business

- a. **Chassell Mercantile Update** K. Meyers talked to Jeff R from KEDA. No new updates.
- b. **Snowmobile Trail Update** No update. B Waters indicated that he will reach out to Barb McEwen from Baraga Tourism to discuss project again.
- c. **Centennial Park Engineering Study** It was indicated in November that the study was almost complete. K Meyers will ask for completed study to bring to January meeting.
- d. **Holy Trinity Old Church** A new RFP is currently out for development of the property.
- e. **Sturgeon River Launch Improvements** K. Meyers shared messaging from state regarding the grant. One message indicated received, and a follow up message offered the opportunity to discuss our score. Gierke and Meyers participated in a meeting to discuss our score. No update from the state regarding funding has been received as of this date.
- f. **Keweenaw Water Trail** K. Meyers reports that the project is moving along. Meyers shared that WUPPDR is seeking a kayak launch site identification project grant. The goal for the trail is a 2026 roll out. K Meyers shared that he attended a Baraga County local trail group meeting in L'Anse. He discussed additional kayak launch sites. The trail group is a good contact for the trail project.
- g. **Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration** B Waters affirmed that the will contact McEwen from Baraga Tourism regarding the collaboration.
- h. **Hamar Creek Restoration Project** K Meyers reported that he shared a potential project grant opportunity with Casey from MTU. Meyers will follow up.
- i. **Cemetery Mapping** No report
- j. **Cemetery Landscaping** D. Hamar reports that the project is ongoing. Hamar has discussed appropriate tree placement with Superior Tree Farm. Goals are long life, easy care, no leaf dropping, flowering in sequential seasons.
- k. **Rail-Trail** B Waters reports that an RFP is out for the removal of the remaining rails into Baraga. It is in the plan to repair the dip in the trail behind the mercantile property. D Hamar reports that the current trail repair has caused water to flood on the east side of the trail. Hamar points out that flooded areas will change the topography of the area. Hamar suggests directing water to the existing ditch and handling the water in the area correctly with this planned fix.
- l. **Marina Development** No update.
- m. **Mountain bike trail/Skills track** A funding proposal is pending with a private foundation.
- n. **Misslitz Field Improvements** Field work has been successfully accomplished. The Eagle Scout project is complete and included tree removal and trimming, painting, benches and removing the old batting cage. Steve Syzsckoski surveyed field elevations. B Waters worked in getting the grass removed from the infield. Infield material is delivered. D Palosaari will grade the infield in the spring. JCS will complete the fencing in the spring. Sig Rho will be approached to clean vegetation along the fence line.

- o. Max and Evan Eagle Scout Projects** B Waters will create recognition plaques for the ballfield and the dog park recognizing the scouts work and project completion.
- p. Pike River Bridge** Two bids were received for the engineering work on the bridge platform project. Potential funding braiding is being explored. K Meyers suggested inviting a private foundation to the January PC meeting to discuss project funding.
- q. Tree Identification on the Fitness Trail/MTU Sierra Williams** The MTU Women in Natural Resources Club will give a list of plants identified to the Chassell School class by the end of January to have identification plaques made and ready for trail placement in the spring. K Meyers shared that the MTU Wetlands Club is interested in creating a plant identification project on the historical trail.
- r. Ski Trail High Bridge Inspection/Repair** The bridge is solid. K Meyers and J Vaught worked on the bridges over the summer. D Hamar gave input on the previously discussed software being able to track recreation assets such as ski trail bridges including depreciation.

12. New Business

- a. Trail Bridge by the Old Rink** D Palosaari did the excavating work required in this area. Included a culvert permitted by EGLE. Area is now functional.
- b. Ordinance Review** The meeting with Bethany will be scheduled to go over all zoning ordinances that need review.
- c. PC Membership** Molly Ploe submitted a letter of interest for the vacancy on the PC. Molly was present at the meeting to discuss her interest in becoming a PC member. Molly has attended all meetings since August. B Waters moved to accept M Ploe's application and be appointed PC member. S Spahn Second. All aye. M/C. Ploe's term will expire in August 2027.
- d. Donation Box Suggestions** Bethany forwarded suggested donation box language options to B Waters for posting with donation boxes at recreation areas. The PC discussed and identified the suggested language they thought appropriate.
- e. Steve Syszkoski Recognition** The PC would like to recognize Steve Syszkoski for the work that he donated in surveying the Misslitz Field. A discussion of options was held.

NEXT MEETING

January 8, 2026 7 pm Chassell Township Fire Hall

Adjourn B. Waters made a motion to adjourn. C. Cowell seconded. All aye. M/C Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.