

MINUTES

05 February 2026 / 7:00 PM / Chassell Fire Hall

ATTENDEES

Steve Spahn, Brian Waters, Keith Meyers, Cindy Cowell, Doug Hamar, Molly Ploe, Rich Smith, Lynn Gierke

AGENDA

1. Call to Order 7:03

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda B Waters moved to approve the agenda with changes. R Smith second. All aye. M/C

4. Reading and Approval of Minutes Defer to March

5. Public Comments None

6. Road Commission Report and 5-year Road Plan Discussion The plan has been submitted.

7. Zoning The zoning meeting was rescheduled to 2/12 at 2 pm at the fire hall. Tim Palosaari will be invited to attend.

8. Capital Improvement Committee Report No report

9. Recreation Committee Report K. Meyers reports that the new tracks have been installed on the gator. The gator was serviced at Northland and the tracks were installed by AmerTrak. After two days back on the trail, the shifter broke and the gator will go to Northland tomorrow. Conditions allowed the trail to hold up during this time.

10. Recreation Facility Issues Hockey was being played during open skate again. L Gierke saw the camera feed on her phone and asked Craig Austin to respond. Monitoring on Sat could be considered as this is the most active time at the rink. The sign remains well light.

11. Old Business

a. Chassell Mercantile Update K. Meyers spoke to J Ratcliffe from KEDA. Discussions are ongoing with a potentially interested developer.

b. Snowmobile Trail Update (g. is discussed in b. also) K Meyers talked to Carly Graff and Ron Yezney. A potential pro bono engineer study donor has been identified. The engineering study will total \$11,500.00. Potential donor asked about assurance from the DNR that the work will be completed by agency. Other private donors could be approached. Township look at options like zippering

rec millage dollars and private donor funds. DNR will be able to commit funding after the study is complete. DNR prefers that project is completed in 2026. g . snow trail: K Meyers learned at the Houghton County Recreation Authority Meeting that Baraga is working through a trail easement. Chassell will work on our portion of the trail during this time.

c. Centennial Park Engineering Study K Meyers forwarded the study to the PC. K Meyers noted in the study a)no discussion of private partnerships to develop the park and waterfront, b)no mention of restaurant development interest, c)also the mention of a MI waterfront grant is incorrect due to lack of 30 mile distance from operational marina. B Waters discussed what phase of project planning would be appropriate to focus on currently. It was discussed that the focus of the study and maps is north, no inclusion of southern property in front of recently acquired McIntrye property. L Gierke has created a Google doc to organize study comments. Google doc will be reviewed at March PC meeting.

d. Holy Trinity Old Church An active RFP is out for development of the property. Jeff Ratcliffe reports no activity on the RFP. K Meyers noted that the RFP is a template RFP. K Meyers point out that ½ of property being greenfield and township investment isn't included in RFP.

e. Sturgeon River Launch Improvements K. Meyers stated that an engineering study and project manager are the next steps in implementing the Trust Grant. Meyers reiterated that the grant award is \$106200.00 and the Township match is 35,400.00.

f. Keweenaw Water Trail K. Meyers reports that Visit Keweenaw and the Isle Royale and Keweenaw Park Assoc are doing a presentation on the trail at the Quiet Adventures Symposium at MSU. Meyers remarked that the Chassell Historical Trail is a perfect stop on the water trail for paddlers. B Waters commented regarding creating a rustic landing at the Historic Trail. Awareness can also be created regarding two pieces of state land along the Sturgeon River. Info on packing in and out can be distributed.

g. Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration Discussed in b. above.

h. Hamar Creek Restoration Project KD Hamar shared an article from MLive regarding a creek restoration downstate. The project was very similar to the Hamar Creek project. Hamar suggested the article be used to inform steps that could be taken, including potential funding, from the MLive article.

i. Cemetary Landscaping Tabled for two months.

j. Rail-Trail Will be discussed under o.

k. Marina Development Discussed under c. above.

l. Mountain bike trail/Skills track K. Meyers reports that the Township will submit a Visit Keweenaw Grant application to fund the track. This will be second application for grant. A match is required. A bid for the larger portion of the track submitted by Ebb and Flow has been shared with a potential private donor.

m. Misslitz Field Improvements Infield grading will be completed in the spring. Organics will be cleaned out from along fence line prior to grading.

n. Max and Evan Eagle Scout Projects Max and Evan graduated as Eagle Scouts in January.

o. Pike River Bridge Discussed in b. above.

p. Tree Identification on the Fitness Trail/MTU Sierra Williams B Waters met with Sierra. The club is ready to install the identification signs. If not in the spring, immediately upon MTU class start in the fall. K Meyers met with the MTU Wetlands Club after the January PC meeting. Club is interested in wetlands interpretation project that includes hydrology, wildlife and invasive species. D Hamar got feedback from Joe at Industrial Graphics regarding

wetland identification signs. D Hamar will get the MTU club slides to Joe as a template to create wetland identification signs.

q. Dumping at the end of Hancock Street L. Gierke discussed the issue with the road commission and inquired about installing no dumping signs. County stated that they are not allowed to place no dumping signs at the location. Means of community education on allowable dumping was discussed.

r. Steve Szyszkoski Recognition PC also added Max and Evan Eagle Scout recognition to the discussion. PC members pledged donations for a gift card for Steve. Project acknowledgement plaques will be created for Max and Evan's work.

s. Ordinance Review Discussed under 7. Above.

t. Donation Box Suggestions Remove item.

u. Potential Zoning Change Included in 7. above.

12. New Business

a. Blight Mitigation Fund Prior five year recreation plan included questions about township blight. A question asked if residents are willing to contribute to a blight fund and a large percentage said yes. A fund is housed with Copper Shores. Folks can donate to the fund at CS.

b. PC Membership Requirements PC member is required to live in the township. One non resident member is allowed, and that position is currently filled. Current PC opening is posted on the Township website.

c. Zoning Ordinances Requirements Requirements are included in the current review process occurring now. Zoning ordinance amendments will be included on the review meeting agenda.

NEXT MEETING

March 5, 2026 7 pm Chassell Township Fire Hall

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