

Chassell Township Planning Commission **MINUTES**

05 March 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 7:02

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda B Waters moved to approve the agenda. M Ploe second. All aye. M/C

4. Reading and Approval of Minutes D. Hamar moved to approve the January 2026 minutes. B Waters second. All aye. M/C. D Hamar moved to approve the February 2026 minutes. K Meyers second. All aye. M/C.

5. Public Comments K Meyers shared that he was contacted by Heather Courtney a documentary film maker. Courtney is the creator of the film “Where Soldiers Come From.” Courtney is exploring a film about remote workers in the Keweenaw. Courtney found Meyers through his Remote Keweenaw blog. Meyers feels the film would be a boost for the Chassell area. M Ploe responded that Courtney contacted her to discuss the film topic also. Meyers encouraged Courtney to pursue the film.

6. Road Commission Report and 5-year Road Plan Discussion No update.

7. Zoning A second work session was scheduled for Friday, March 13.

8. Capital Improvement Committee Report No update.

9. Recreation Committee Report K. Meyers reports that the gator was repaired in time to work after the recent heavy snowfall and worked well. Meyers also reported that Jim Tervo from the upcoming Bear Chase Xcountry ski race contacted him to inquire about potentially borrowing the Ginzu and maybe gator to keep up with spring conditions on the trail. Supervisor Gierke asked about adding a condition of race repairing any potential breakdowns if borrowed. Meyers said that would be a condition if loaned out.

10. Recreation Facility Issues No new issues

11. Old Business

a. Chassell Mercantile Update No updates.

b. Snowmobile Trail Update No updates.

- c. Centennial Park Engineering Study** L Gierke indicates that she will set up a meeting with Chris Holmes from UPEA before the Township Board meeting next week. Gierke sent a Google doc to the PC for comments to be made. Gierke requests that input by PC be made prior to Board meeting on 3/16.
- d. Holy Trinity Old Church** K Meyers suggested posting the previous, detailed RFP to use in place of the current general RFP that is out. Minimum bid can be updated to reflect site work that was completed since that posting. Cowell inquired if currently posted RFP includes a minimum bid amount. Meyers indicated no. Meyers suggested marketing RFP after updating on social media, pertinent websites, etc. Meyer will contact J Ratcliffe regarding RFP update.
- e. Sturgeon River Launch Improvements** K. Meyers will meet with L Gierke to create RFP for engineering work. Gierke stated that the RFP will be reviewed with the lawyer per standard process. Meyer say that the Spark Grant language can be used as a template. Bid language “not to exceed” will be included to assure bids stay within the grant budget.
- f. Keweenaw Water Trail** K. Meyers reports that the water trail is included on the April Houghton County Rec Meeting agenda. Keweenaw Land Trust is interested in developing two sites on the trail. Once trail comes together it will be a statewide destination to paddle.
- g. Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration** No update.
- h. Hamar Creek Restoration Project** D Hamar reported that one of Casey Huckins PhD students, Chris Adams, is going to take the lead on the project. In light of update, Chris Nault from the DNR will be contacted to get the project active again. EGLE will have input on the project. Hamar added that feedback can be sought from the restoration project downstate as to the aesthetic of the project. The township can research options for project aesthetic with the needed culvert repairs.
- i. Cemetary Landscaping** No report.
- j. Rail-Trail/Pike River Bridge** Funding of the bridge engineering study was discussed. Meyer reports that the estimated study cost is 11500.00. Private funders or a combination of private/township dollars was discussed.
- k. Mountain bike trail/Skills track** K. Meyers is continuing conversation with a private donor. A Visit Keweenaw Destination Development Grant application will be submitted to help fund a portion of the project.
- l. Misslitz Field Improvements** No update.
- m. Max and Evan Eagle Scout Projects** Waters reports that recognition gifts are still being worked on. A newspaper story covering the project is in the works.
- n. Tree Identification on the Fitness Trail/MTU Sierra Williams** D Hamar met with Joe Schwenk from Industrial Graphics. Joe had recommendations for durable id signs in the boardwalk area. Joe is preparing a quote to create wetland identification signs.
- o. Dumping at the end of Hancock Street** No changes.

12. New Business

- a. MTU STEM Policy Lab/Second Road Crossing Portage Lake** L. Gierke was contacted regarding a MTU student project exploring a second bridge over Portage Lake. The group will advise Gierke of all meetings to communicate with Township leadership if any interest in participating.
- b. Sale of Greenlight Property** K Meyers shared an announcement from social media of the purchase and planned development of the Greenlight property. The

PC indicated that the developers will be invited to attend the April PC meeting to overview their project.

Next Meeting: April 2 2026 Chassell Firehall 7 pm. **Motion to adjourn:** Hamar motioned. Second: Waters. All aye. M/C Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.