

MINUTES

03 July 2026 / 7:00 PM / Chassell Fire Hall

ATTENDEES

Brian Waters, Keith Meyers, Michael Messner, Doug Hamar, Steve Spahn, Molly Ploe, Rich Smith, community member Mike Mihalyfy

AGENDA

1. Call to Order 7:00 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda B Waters motioned to approve the agenda. K Meyers second. All aye. M/C

4. Reading and Approval of June Minutes: Two proposed changes: 1. add comma to Old business item a. Chassell Mercantile & Old Holy Trinity Church “K. Meyers reported that Ryan McNamara indicated that he has a contractor interested in the property; J Ratcliffe from KEDA reports that no responses to the RFP were received.”; 2. correct spelling of “Menard’s” in Old business item k. Misslitz Field Improvements. B Waters moves to approve the changes; K Meyers seconds

5. Public Comments

Community member Mike Mihalyfy came to introduce himself as a new business owner in the community, having purchased the Bait Shack at 42233 Wilson Memorial Dr earlier this year, and has been operational for about 8 weeks. He shared plans to make improvements to the property, including potentially replacing the old retaining wall, pending a survey scheduled for next Tuesday. He is also expanding product lines, including offering bulk minnows and crawlers, with the potential for seasonal food or beverage options after parking lot improvements have been made. K Meyers recommended he communicate with the Zoning Board of Approvals, and Mihalyfy confirmed he has been in touch and is taking the necessary steps.

K Meyers shared a newly printed brochure for the Chassell Heritage Center & Historical Trail, designed by Goose Collective and printed at Designotype Printers. The brochures will be available at the Heritage Center and other locations.

6. Road Commission Report K Meyers reported Lynn Gierke had indicated progress had been made on Fourth Street, but will have a hiatus due to the upcoming Strawberry Festival.

7. Zoning Discussion no update.

8. Capital Improvement Committee Report New software setup is going well.

9. Recreation Committee Report See old business.

10. Recreation Facility Issues See old business.

11. Old Business

a. Chassell Mercantile & Old Holy Trinity Church On the Chassell Mercantile site, K Meyers reported he and Dan Palosaari agreed that a meeting between the interested parties would be helpful. Jeff Ratcliffe, Ryan McNamara, and the contractor will be part of this discussion. Ratcliffe indicated he will reach out to Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to see if the previously approved grant is still a possibility. The contractor, who previously worked in the Lansing area, feels costs can be reduced by partnering MEP providers he has worked with Downstate. The current shortage of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing professionals in the area combined with local high demand have costs for these services at a high level. No further updates on the Church site.

b. Snowmobile Trail Update D Hamar will reach out to landowner regarding the easement question. B Waters suggests bringing the relevant parties together to discuss options as a group. He will seek out contact information for the relevant parties and try to find a date to meet.

c. Centennial Park Engineering Study/Marina Development K Meyers talked to Chris Holmes, who indicated the updated study would be ready for review next Tuesday.

d. Sturgeon River Launch Improvements K Meyers and L Gierke prepared an RFP and sent it to Merrie Carlock with DNR. They are considering adding “not to exceed” language to control proposed costs before making it public. A budget figure is known, which K Meyers will find through previous documentation. K Meyers reported recent repairs were completed successfully, though additional improvements were proposed to reduce the strain imposed on launch equipment by the river’s current.

e. Keweenaw Water Trail no update.

f. Baraga/Chassell Trail Project Collaboration K Meyers reported that their main contact at MDOT has left their position, and is waiting to hear back from Matt Torreano at the MDNR about who will be the right person to collaborate with going forward.

g. Hamar Creek Restoration Project D Hamar, K Meyers, B Waters met with several contacts from MTU, who anticipate bringing student involvement during the Fall Semester. Their next action is to seek out aerial photography and other documentation to determine the historic vegetation patterns.

h. Cemetery Landscaping D Hamar indicated that several trees need to be removed, and that one was lost a limb during a recent thunderstorm. Many architectural firms need a master plan to begin working on a landscaping project. Hamar will collaborate with Cemetery Sexton Craig Austin, who has much of the requisite information needed for a master plan. There are some considerations yet to be made, including general layout of the cemetery, appropriate landscaping and management of the green burial area, policies about markers, etc.

i. Rail Trail/Pike River Bridge K Meyers reports the Board approved funding from the rec millage to cover the balance of the engineering cost not covered by the contributions being made by local resident. UP Engineers & Architects will do the engineering work. Ron Yesney and Carly Graff have been notified of the award to UPEA. Yesney feels confident in the project's construction funding through either the federal or state gas tax revenue the DNR receives. There's no official timeframe for the engineering study, but the group is aiming to complete it soon.

j. Misslitz Field Improvements S Spahn and B Waters attempted to affix yellow tubing to the fence, but the material was difficult to work with. Waters has made a mold to help. Spahn and Waters will seek a third person, then schedule a date to try again. Snow fencing has been added.

k. Steve Szyszkoski Recognition B Waters has purchased gift cards and will get his phone number to give them to him.

l. Tree Identification on the Fitness Trail Signs / MTU Sierra Williams Project will be revisited in the fall when MTU is back in session. Sign budget pending approval from the Board. K Meyers will address this during next week's meeting.

m. Dumping at the end of Hancock Street M Ploe wrote some verbiage for the website and newsletter to inform community about appropriate waste disposal, which was shared with the group. Pending updates and missing information.

n. Centennial Park Boat Ramp Jam Services got the ramp in. D Palosaari provided equipment. Community seems to be using it.

o. Trailer across from South Entry D Palosaari reported progress toward moving the trailer is being made.

p. Chassell Township Development Guide see new business item a.

q. Relocation of Chassell School Gazebo The relocation was completed successfully and is now available for public use at Centennial Park.

r. Adding Payment Kiosk at the Cleaning Station M Messner sent initial research to Brian, who will forward to the group for review.

s. GLSDLP Cleanup at Long Dock No update.

12. New Business

a. Zoning Amendments Hearing Date set for August 6 at 6 P.M. ahead of the next Planning Commission meeting. Bethany Baetsen sent information to the Gazette.

b. Mountain Bike Trail / Skills Track Signage Skills park completed by Ebb & Flow; community is using the park. Signage is still needed, and Zack Wilk is working on a draft of the sign, and K Meyers will share once ready for review. There will be a sign installed at the trailhead, with grant funding from the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

c. Ski Trial Signage Another active project with Zack, and Keith will circulate drafts.

d. Strawberry Festival Volunteers Julie Meyers will share a booth with the Planning Commission at the Strawberry Festival. Keith will create a schedule and pass around for people to volunteer for.

e. Band Shell at the Park B Waters suggests that a band shell be installed at Centennial Park on the lawn below the pavilion. B Waters to reach out to Chris for next steps.

NEXT MEETING

August 6, 2026 | 7 pm | Chassell Township Fire Hall

Adjourn B. Waters adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm