

MINUTES

LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013 1:30PM
PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, ARCADIA

Attendees: Brad Hopwood, Tim Ervin, Betsy Evans, Ted Wood, Connie, John Iacoangeli, Tamara Buswinka, Al Taylor, Susan Barnard, Chuck Beale, Bruce Wilde, Bruce Ogilvie, Dave Long, Monica Schultz (via teleconference)

Revision on Plans, John Iacoangeli

40-50 letters have been sent out to adjoining counties and agencies within the targeted area. The 63-day clock starts on Dec. 23. All of these comments will go to B&R so they all go to one place. Leah will aggregate and provide to Planning Commissions who should compile a list of changes. Leah will send back a revision that will indicate where changes were made and will be dated. The same thing will be done after the public hearings. Edits can be a typed list, crossed out and noted on a hard copy, or edited on an electronic copy (a pdf. format that can be revised on Adobe Acrobat). Hopwood suggested converting to a word document to make edits and then converting back to a pdf. B&R will work with any format as long as they receive all the revisions at once. Leah might be able to come up for a day or two and work with Planning Commissions to make sure that the revisions are done correctly but it depends on how many comments there are. The agencies comment. If they catch anything that was missed the public can review the plan once those corrections are incorporated.

Citizen Planner Scholarship Update, Monica Schultz

Gilmore, Elberta, Arcadia are ready to go; Blaine is almost ready, Monica is following up on Crystal Lake, Honor, and Joyfield.

Heritage Route Project, Al Taylor

A meeting was held a few weeks ago. B&R received a letter back in 2011 from MDOT regarding Scenic Heritage requirements and they need to find out if those still apply. Lake Township is starting down that path, so they should probably be involved in the discussion even though they aren't in the area of influence. Taylor is waiting to hear back from NWMCOG. He got support from their township board. A position paper needs to be put together to obtain preliminary approval of a minimum standard from town boards. It will include zoning and design standards. A discussion followed regarding collaborating on getting legal assistance to assist with crafting a model ordinance. Taylor continued that a charter has been developed with 3 basic goals: outline the process for implementation; define costs; seek funding. Each governing body will have to pass a resolution. There was a discussion on obtaining a Pure Michigan vs. Scenic Highway designation because as one member put it "Pure Michigan sizzles" and there may be more support for that designation and fewer hoops to jump through. The leadership team should determine what kind of presentation they want. Taylor offered to put together a power point. It was suggested that Taylor contact Patty O'Donnell (sp?) at Transportation Service Center for technical assistance or Sarah Lucas at NWMCOG.

Discussion on Trails, Tim Ervin

Since development of trail systems was identified as a high priority, Ervin asked if a forum in January or February should be held with experts to discuss what exists, what they have/don't have, resources; and a starting point on common objectives. There was agreement around the table that this is a top priority or next step. Iacoangeli suggested looking at non-motorized trails, blue water trails and art trails. It was mentioned that the DNR is looking at crossing the Betsie River in Joyfield Township.

January Visit from The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

L2L represents an opportunity for MDARD to understand from an economy of scale, some of the issues and opportunities. Mike DiBarnardo, the Director of Economic Development statewide and Jodi Gruner, director of Economic Development in West Michigan will be up here in January for a roundtable discussion with agricultural persons in the L2L region. They are interested in discussions pertaining to workforce, processors interested in market expansion and export, food hubs and incubator space. It was suggested to get the Department of Health involved because they make some of the rules, Grow Benzie and the Manistee Community Kitchen. Ervin asked for input on other entities people who would be good participants and specific issues. It was commented that government agencies can be roadblocks or facilitators. Ervin gave assurance that these representatives were roadblock removers. Someone suggested Food on the Trails! Hopwood gave an example of Seifert's Granola, which can't be bought at the grocery store because it wasn't made in a certified kitchen. You can only buy it at the Farmer's Markets.

Other

501c3 status – It was determined that it was premature; that we need to get through these plans. When the group decides the timing is right, we will lay out the process and steps to get there. Let's not have a false start. A conclusion made around April and May would be good.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8 at 1:30 PM

The first Wednesday of next month is New Year's Day. We will go back to second Wednesday on 1/8/14 @ 1:30 PM.

Merry Christmas Everyone!