



## MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, February 6, 2023  
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Planning  
Commission Building and via Zoom

### MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Wayne Beldo; Vice Chair, Margaret Batzer; Secretary, Gary Schwaiger, Linda Cudney; Devin Wegner; Jeff Lawrence; Eleanor DeYoung;

Members Absent: Robert Schulke; Bryan Dunlop;

Others Present: Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director; Nikki Koons, County Commissioner (via Zoom); Claire Richards, Friends of Smart Trails (Via Zoom)

Mr. Beldo called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, roll call was taken.

#### 2023 Officer Appointments

Ms. Batzer nominated Mr. Beldo to be the Chairman of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Ms. Wegner to elect Wayne Beldo as the Chairman of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Ms. Cudney nominated Ms. Batzer to be the Vice Chairman of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.

**There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Mr. Beldo to elect Margaret Batzer as the Vice Chairman of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Ms. Batzer nominated Mr. Schwaiger to be the Secretary of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Mr. Beldo to elect Gary Schwaiger as the Secretary of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Beldo nominated Kristyn Malkowski to be the Recording Secretary of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.

**There was a motion by Mr. Beldo, supported by Ms. Batzer to elect Kristyn Malkowski as the Recording Secretary of the Manistee County Recreation Commission.**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Approval of the February 6, 2023, meeting agenda.

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer supported by Mr. Beldo, to approve February 6, 2023, agenda as stated.**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of the January 23, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Batzer stated that there should be an amendment to the members in attendance. Linda Cudney (Via Zoom) should be considered as "Others Present".

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve the January 23, 2023, meeting minutes, as amended.**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

Public Comment: No public comment.

Trail Champions: There was not an update.

Staff Reports: There was not an update.

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Ms. Cudney stated there is hope for a first annual Trail Summit. There will be further discussion at the March SMARTrails meeting, but Ms. Cudney is hoping to get multiple forms of support. Ms. Batzer requested there be communication with the commission as to how they can help. The January 9, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes were presented, along with the February 13, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix A).

Old Business:

Spark Grant Update: Mr. Szokola is waiting to have discussions with Scott Slavin, DNR, regarding the next steps.

Minger Grant Update: There was not an update.

Railroad Relocation Update: There was not an update.

Parks & Recreation Manager Update: Mr. Szokola stated that he received an email from Networks Northwest, regarding the possibilities of partnering with Benzie County. It was previously decided that Manistee County will hold the manager position as full time but is more than willing to discuss the possibilities of joint county trail systems.

County ORV Map: The Manistee County Planning Commission sent letters to all the Clerks of the local municipalities (Appendix B). The letters were requesting the validity of the ORV Road Allowance Manual, which is located on the Manistee County website (<https://www.manisteecountymi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/524/ORV-Road-Allowance-Manual-as-of-September-04-2020-PDF>). Information regarding their ORV ordinances was also requested. The deadline to have the information to the Planning Commission is March, 1, 2023.

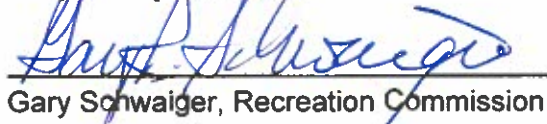
Dam Update: There was not an update.

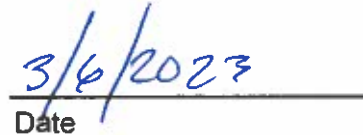
New Business: No new business.

Other Items from Committee Members: Nothing further

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM. Next meeting will be on March 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Friends of SMARTrails**  
**Village of Kaleva former Elementary School**  
**9208 Kauko Street**  
**Kaleva, MI 49645**  
**Monday, February 13, 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

## AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
  - 1. Roll Call**
  
- II. Consent Agenda**
  - 1. Approval of January 9, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes**
  - 2. Treasurers Report and payment of bills.**
  
- III. New Business**
  - 1. Marketing Committee update**
  - 2. Summer Events**
  - 3.**
  - 4.**
  
- IV. Old Business**
  - 1. Update of Website**
  - 2. EDA Update**
  - 3. MOU between FBVT, TARP & SMART**
  
- V. Other Business**
  - 1. County Recreation Commission update**
  - 2.**
  
- VI. Board Members Comments/Correspondence**
  
- VII. Adjourn**
  
- VIII. Next meeting date: Monday, March 13, 2023**



**Friends of SMARTrails  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 9, 2023  
Kaleva Community Center  
6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** Rob Carson, President; Karen Kolk, Vice-president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Zachary Pawlowski, Claire Richards and Dave Myers.

**Board Members Absent:** Elaine Gibbs, Mary Reed, Al Taylor.

**Guests:** Mark Coe, Charles Kraus, Jan Myers, Scott Slavin by phone.

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Rob Carson, president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
  1. **December 12, 2022 Board Minutes**  
Motioned by Karen Kolk, seconded by Dave Myers to accept the minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
  2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**  
Jacque Erdman presented a financial report, which is not the final end of the year report but furnished a Statement of Income and Expenses and Financial Position. There was the one monthly recurring bill to pay to Pro Web Marketing for \$25.00. We will have to submit an annual report May 15 and if we go over the \$50,000.00 limit of fundraising, Jacque suggested we have a CPA do the report. Rob will check into closing out the Minger grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Karen seconded the motion. AIF. Motion carried.
- III. **New Business**
  1. **Charles Kraus, from TARP (Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project)**  
Charles gave an overview of the creating of TARP, with a Board of Directors, and forming a 501C-3. They have a Historical Marker in place (which belongs to the DNR) and are in a process of getting grants to create park facilities, trailhead, visitor center, etc. They have hired Mansfield & Associates of Traverse City as engineers of the project. They also submitted a SPARK Grant for \$800,000.00. Rob Carson, stated that if they need a letter of support, SMARTrails will be glad to help.
  2. **Memorandum of Understanding between FBVT, TARP and SMARTrails**  
Discussion with Scott Slavin of the DNR, Charles Kraus of TARP and SMARTrails regarding the concerns of the Memorandum of Understanding. Rob confirmed the EDA Grant criteria will complete the trail from Thompson Ave to County Road 669. Friends of SMARTrails

primary goal is grassroots. Trail signage was discussed and Scott Slavin from the DNR stated the DNR has sign standards. The naming of the trails was discussed and the DNR has the oversight of all the trail names. The Betsie Valley Trail runs from Frankfort to Yuma. The spur from Thompsonville to Crystal Mountain was discussed and the DNR and Snowbirds support the spur, but easements will have to be worked out. Rob will work on the Memorandum of Understanding points.

**3. Meeting dates for 2023**

Linda passed out the 2023 calendar with all meeting dates scheduled for the second Monday of the month for 2023. Motioned by Rob, seconded by Zach to approve the calendar dates for 2023. AIF

**4. Update of Website**

Zach stated that the marketing committee will be meeting to decide on some changes to the website. The Google Non Profit is set up but cannot link the Google and Google Non Profit. Rob will try and get ahold of Jim Gribble and see if things can be worked out. Facebook does not like the Post Office Box, and wants a physical address. Jacques' address is on the checking account along with the PO Box, but this will have to be looked into.

**5. EDA Update**

Rob stated RFP's are written for engineering firms and after obtained will be seeking sealed bids. Permits will be needed, and the bridge over Bear Creek will be a pre fab bridge and constructed off site and moved to the site. Scott Slavin will send some pictures of pre fab bridges. The pilings will have to be pulled before the bridge is put in. The group talked about maybe being present when the bridge is set.

**IV. Old Business**

**1. Recreation Commission Update.**

Linda reported the January meeting was changed to Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM as Monday, January 2, 2023 was considered a holiday.

**2. Mark Coe, from the Manistee Snowbirds**

Mark Coe brought us up to date on the bridge over the Manistee River with possible construction in 2024. The Interlochen grade from northeast of Thompsonville to Reynolds Road, approximately 11.5 miles is coming up in the future. Plus, there is a small trail project that the Snowbirds have been working on behind the Blue Slipper and Township offices in Onekama, to the EZ mart.

**V. Other Business**

**1.** Linda read a message from the new Village of Copemish president. She is working on a grant to put a memorial historical garden between M-115 and the railroad tracks in Copemish, with benches, flowers and veteran plaques. She contacted Linda, since she is part of the Historical Society. If she can wait until the trail is put in, it could maybe be coordinated with the trail. Linda will let her know that we will send her a letter of support if needed.

**2.** It was motioned and supported to send a thank you to Rusty Fish for their donation to SMARTrails. (Zach will send Linda the address to send it to). Also, a thank you to Charles Kraus for attending our meeting and giving us an overview of TARP. Linda will send them out.

**3.** Tamara Buswinka was scheduled to be here in January to go over the Strategic Plan. Linda and her talked but could not set up a time. Rob will try and get ahold of her. Maybe have

her come in the spring.

4. Future planning. Rusty Fish will be October 14, 2023. Need to check on Festivals for 2023.

VI. **Adjourn.** Motioned and supported to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

VII. **Next meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2023, at 9208 Kauko Street, Kaleva at 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

**Linda Cudney**  
**Secretary**  
**Friends of SMARTrails**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023 Marketing Committee meeting (maybe Google Suite?)**

**Manistee County**  
Planning Department



**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
(231) 723-6041  
Fax (231) 398-3526  
planning@manisteecountymi.gov

Manistee County Planning Department, 395 Third Street Manistee, Michigan 49660

January 24, 2023

Dear Township / Village,

Manistee County Planning Department is reviewing the ORV Road Allowance Manual. As part of this review, we are contacting local municipalities to verify the validity of the manual. Please review the ORV Road Allowance Manual located on the Manistee County Webpage (<https://www.manisteecountymi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/524/ORV-Road-Allowance-Manual-as-of-September-04-2020-PDF>).

If you have updated your ORV ordinance or adopted one, please send the Planning Department a copy of your current ordinance and, if it exists, an updated ORV map for the update.

Please respond to this letter via email prior to March 1, 2023. If no response is received, the Planning Department will assume there are no changes needed. If changes are required, the Planning Department will evaluate the scope of work and the County Planning Commission will decide how to proceed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Manistee County Planning Department.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sorensen  
Manistee County Clerical Assistant

CC:

Arcadia Township  
Bear Lake Township  
Village of Bear Lake  
Brown Township  
Cleon Township  
Village of Copemish  
Dickson Township  
Charter Township of Filer  
Manistee Township  
Village of Eastlake

Maple Grove Township  
Village of Kaleva  
Marilla Township  
Norman Township  
Onekama Township  
Village of Onekama  
Pleasanton Township  
Springdale Township  
Stronach Township