

## CEAC meeting minutes for June 23, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:00 p.m.. Voting members present: Tim Kasper, Tom Franek, and Danielle Reynolds. Other Community members present: Jim Koptis, Dennis Cardello, Terrie Sanzo, Stanley Ellenberger.

Tim K. opened the meeting with an overview of how the committee was formed and what its goals are. ---Hiram Township zoning commission updated the Comprehensive Plan, and during the meetings, the mention of trails for hiking, pedestrian friendly transport, and supporting business came up. The suggestion was made to have the trustees create a committee to make a trail system. As the meeting progressed, it was noted a committee could work on other parts of the Comp. Plan—meeting with college or village people to collaborate on projects, inform residents about the comp. plan, etc. This went through regional planning, and was added to the Comp. Plan and given the name Community Evaluations and Accomplishments Committee.

Tom Franek mentioned the historical value such trails could have, highlighting different points of interest. He too was at the Zoning meetings and seems to think there is a good bit of support from the trustees.

After some discussion about the committee, Tim pointed out that this is to be a committee of action and achieving things.. We need to go through the trustees, and have them approve implementation of the Comp. Plan, but they will be looking for action. Also, the CEAC needs to comply with sunshine laws, so minutes will be taken and approved at the following meeting. Also, all emails need to have CEAC in the heading for easy access, and since this is a public meeting/committee they would (perhaps) need to be available for public information.

At this point, Tim asked if anyone present wished to be on the committee. This would mean attending meetings and being able to vote toward committee actions and resolutions. Dennis Cardello and Terrie Sanzo wanted to take part and were officially added to the committee membership.

New Business: Discussion moved to the idea of the trail system, since this will be the first part of the Comp. Plan the CEAC will attempt to implement. It will be necessary to get trustee approval for steps we come up with. Stan Ellenberger pointed out about liability issues when people are injured. Terrie Sanzo suggested people could agree to not sue anyone on their property, as long as rules and such were clear beforehand. Tom Franek talked about tax benefits for those who granted easements- something to consider. Or perhaps partnering with Portage parks. And that the trails could be used year round. Maybe a ten foot swath for the path, that would be under easement. Places like the John Johnson Farm or forty foot falls could be included. All this would need owner approval. Danielle R. pointed out her and her husband were members of the local snowmobile club, and they worked together throughout the year to keep the trails clean and operational. One problem to consider is four-wheelers on trails instead of pedestrians. Some measures to limit this were discussed.

After more brainstorming, the following list of trail system considerations was created;

1. Liability issues

2. Tax benefits
3. Partnering with portage parks
4. Historical Society property and partnership
5. Discussion with local landowners (and city of Akron property)
6. Creating an overview map with existing trails, and logical locations for more
7. Historical sites for trail
8. Geologic sites of interest
9. Existing farms or businesses who would benefit
10. Find similar trail systems and partnerships (esp. for liability issues)
11. Seeking funding and partnerships

Tom F. made the motion for Tim K. to put these 11 steps in a resolution for the trustees to vote on and approve, so that the CEAC could take action. Danielle R. seconded. The motion carried with all five members voting aye.

Tim K. showed a pamphlet about watersheds (in VA) that was produced for kids to learn about their watersheds. He suggested looking into something similar for the CEAC to produce. Discussion about the historical sites in Hiram and the three watersheds the Township sits ensued, with a decision to table the idea until we have more committee members and decide to pursue the idea.

Fundraiser- Discussion about types of possibilities—Family Fun Field day. Activities for families and a way to get twp residents to know one another. Could have hot dogs, games, water balloon tossing, potato sack races. Terrie E. will donate hot dogs and fixings, from the Hiram Corner Store. Where to have the event? Maybe at the Corner Store parking lot. Park at Hiram. or College field. Maybe something in the fall. Some type of festival.

Dan Ellenberger mentioned the possibility of a canoe float staging at Camp Hi. Or maybe have ‘fill a boot’ campaign at the traffic light to raise funds.

Danielle suggested a facebook presence in order to recruit/advertise more. She would be willing to create one for the CEAC. It would be best to link to the Township’s facebook page if they have one. Danielle would also create one for the Township if they wanted. Tim agreed to ask the trustees, about the facebook page, and if they would allow Danielle to create one.

#### Misc.

Mention was made that we need to really consider the Rapids when discussing what to do. That was where Hiram started, after all. Tim mentioned that in the Comp. Plan. there are many references to linking up the Rapids are back into the twp.