

Meeting (at Maggie's Donuts) called to order by Chair at 7:25pm. Voting members present: Tim Kasper and Tom Franek. Other Community members present: Melanie Seal, Stephanie Nuccio, John Merrin, Rosalie Franek, John Cymanski and Barb Cymanski.

1. Call to Order:

Tim K. called the meeting to order with an overview of how the committee was formed and what the goals of the committee are. Pamphlets were folded and distributed to all attendees to pass out to people as they see fit.

2. Reading and Adoption of minutes from 6/23:

There was no adoption of 6/23 minutes. There were only two voting members present. As we move forward Tim will email minutes before the next meeting, and members can email any adjustments that need to be made before the meeting.

3. New Member Recognition:

Everyone introduced themselves. Tim reminded everyone that meeting are open to the public, and people can be invited from outside Hiram township (such as Hiram College, Hiram Village, Garrettsville....)

4. Community Comment Period:

Melanie S. asked what was the difference between joining the committee and just attending meetings? We discussed the commitment to coming to meetings if possible, but with the understanding that there may be meetings that you will not be able to attend due to other commitments.

5. Overview of Documents and Resolutions for CEAC:

Tim passed out 'Document of recommendation'. We discussed the process for a recommendation to be made to the Trustees. The committee should look at data from the community survey, and also look at the Goals, Policies and Strategies that were developed. Then decide steps that need to be taken to do a project. These steps would be approved by the Trustees. Then the committee would be working as representatives of the trustees toward taking the steps necessary.

Also passed out were:

- Resolution to approve the creation of CEAC
- Resolution to approve the by-laws of the CEAC
- By-Laws and Delegated Powers of CEAC
- Chapter 5 of the Comprehensive Plan

We noted parts of the Comprehensive Plan:

- Conservation Element
- Parks and Recreation
- Land Use/Development
- Transportation/Community Facilities
- Economic Development

OLD BUSINESS

6. Trail System in Twp.-planning action

Discussed the eleven steps proposed at the last meeting:

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 locgival locations fro 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

Tim let us know that the township has recently purchased 30 acres next to the Umbaugh property on 82. This will be developed for their township services (trucks, etc.). This 30 acres has a lot of possibilities for a nature trail.

Tom F. and Tim discussed how things should proceed. First, there needs to be approval from the township trustees for the 11 steps. Then it would be the work of the committee to put together a plan for how we would proceed forward on these eleven steps. They also suggested that this might be a good time to try to get Chris Craycroft of Portage Parks involved by inviting her to a future meeting. It was also mentioned that we might possibly want to partner with Nature Works as we move forward.

7. Summer fundraiser idea:

Tim discussed an idea from Terrie Sanzo at the last meeting. She suggested we have a coffee with some of the elderly people from the township. Let them tell historic stories about some of the different properties around the township.

Melanie suggested that we call it "A Spoken History" Series and partner with the Historical Society. Tom said that he was affiliated with the historical society and would bring this up at their next meeting. It was also discussed that for this project we might want to partner with the Hiram College History department. Also contact should be made with the archivist at the Hiram library.

This could possibly take place in September.

8. Membership: All new attendees were asked if they wished to become official members of the committee. All agreed.

9. Tasks to be worked on by members:

- Tim will talk to Camp Asbury about Buckeye Trail and Liability Issues
- Melanie will talk to Bar Harbor about a Nature Trail that she was on in her recent travels
- Rosalie will make contact with Chris Craycroft
- Tom will work with the historical society on 'A Spoken History'
- John Merrin will work on Geologic sites of interest and an overview map with existing trails
- Stephanie would work at looking at the maps on the Township website (Note: not sure of the specifics of this??? I don't have it written down)
- Barb will try to do some searches on the internet on whether there are other townships in Ohio doing similar work with trail systems.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 14th at the Corner Store in Hiram