

CEAC meeting minutes for August 14, 2014

Meeting (at the Hiram Corner Store) called to order by Chair at 7:08. Voting members present : Tim Kasper, Melanie Seal, Bette Gualtieri, Tom Franek. No other community member present.

1. Adoption of Minutes. Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to all members two days prior to read and adjust as necessary. The Chair asked if there were any other changes or additions. No adjustments were recommended. Tom K. motioned to adopt the minutes as written; Mel S. seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0.

2. New member recognition. Bette Gualtieri introduced herself to the committee. She had contacted Tim to join the committee before the last meeting (which she was unable to attend). Everyone welcomed her

3. Community comment period. No comments were made.

Old Business.

4. Trail system in Twp. Tim explained that the trustees passed a resolution 2014 to accept the "Document of Recommendation 2014-1" from the CEAC at their last meeting. This was the document with the 11 steps suggested to work toward creating a trail system.

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

The trustees asked that we not take step 5 yet- no talking to landowners. Tim agreed we wouldn't unless approached by landowners first. And they were concerned about creating a map (Step 6). Tim explained it was only for a visual aid for the committee and would not be shown to anyone outside the CEAC.

Bette G. asked about the trail system in general (also the college Hike and Bike trail-one version was slated to come through their property) She felt we would have to talk to landowners. Tim explained that the two trail systems are separate, this one connects twp. residences to businesses and other areas of interest. Mel said we are an advisory committee only and other entities will be actually talking with landowners (she has some info about that for the meeting). Tom F. mentioned the Historical Society property north on 700 and how they would be probably be interested in a trail on and/or connecting with their property. In addition, the old R.R. (Clinton Air) passes through that property as well as the Cymanski property a few parcels away. When instances like this will occur, logical parcels could be considered to connect the trails or parcels together. It will be piecemeal like that at first.

Tim K. then talked about the last Twp trustees meeting and how Matt Sorrick (village resident) went to talk to the trustees about his (and presumably others') concerns with the college's hike and bike trail. Right now it's just a paved 'road' through the woods from the college townhouses which ends at state route 305. Who will police this? How will it be kept safe and maintained? he asked. To his knowledge, the college has no concrete plan for it yet (they plan on addressing it once ground is broken); the trustees had none (not in the twp). Matt also mentioned that CT consultants were hired by Doug McGee, who was in turn hired by college president Tom Chema to create the Hike and Bike trail from the retirement village to the field station and ultimately to Garrettsville. It was not necessarily a college wide project. The village was convinced by the consulting firm, not college employees. CT consultants met only twice with the Field Station folks, and a large portion of the trail will be on F.S. property. He is obviously concerned and feels others are as

well. Tom F. said that he was at a CT Consultants meeting when the annexation was occurring, and that we should look into bringing the contact person of the Hike and Bike trail to a meeting, to let them know what we are up to.

Individual reports

Step 10- Trail systems and partnerships. Mel chimed in about the group she knew of that worked on the hike and bike—the RCTA program of the National Park Service. * This service is free (there is an application process) and could greatly benefit the CEAC. They organize meetings with involved parties in trail systems, very similar to the one we are proposing, and serve as mediators and facilitators at the meetings. They have a good track record and history. She handed Tim a printout of their trails in Ohio from the website.

Also Bar Harbor (Maine, borders Acadia national Park). Has a hiking trail around the town. 3 stakeholders are involved—one to manage each leg (funding, liability, etc). She talked with Stephanie Clement about trail and liability issues. They rely on State Landowner Liability Laws. Our county prosecutor should know about Ohio's. Tim said he would try to contact him. They also used RCTA program to create the trail.

Step 3- partnering with portage parks. Tom F. spoke with Chris Craycroft. She would like to come to our next meeting. Feels we have some good ideas and would like to be involved in what we're doing. They have a plan for the entire county. Sept 24th is a meeting for the Headwaters Trail expansion. Tim K. is in contact with Edie Benner about this.

Tom Collins should be contacted about the study at Kent State for the Headwaters Trail. We could have a similar study here. Tim knows and will contact him.

Chris suggested having a branding/name/logo for trail system we're proposing. Mel asked if we need to be non-profit with same name. Tom feels we should have something ready to hand to land owners with this logo/name. Bette will try to work on something of this nature.

It was agreed that we need to establish a trail on the twp property and come up with a name. This provides somewhere to start and something to talk with people about (when we are able)

Step 1- Liability. Bette asked what the trail will be like. Different liability for hiking or biking. EMT will need access. Tim said the vision was for hiking. Lots to consider here.

5. Spoken History event. Tom said Historical society wants to pursue September date. CEAC was going to wait until Jan or Feb. Society wants bread and soup with large map to identify historical sites. A gathering. We agreed that if Hist Soc. does the most of work, we would partner. Tom will report on that. Also the Historical society meets on the 2nd Thursday.

Tim made the motion to move CEAC meetings to 2nd Tuesday of each month. Mel seconded. motion passed 4-0

New Business

6. Township property report. Tim said the drive entrance is in. ODOT approved "with concerns" because of viewability. He'll contact Kathy Schulda about meeting out there to look at trails with CEAC members.

7. Tasks for members.

Tim- contact Edie Benner, Tom Collins. Walk twp property. Map work.

Mel- continue landowner liability issues.

Bette- work on map of twp (from website) existing farms.

???? contact friends of field station about interest in this project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.