

Draft

May 5, 2025
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Planning Department Conference Room
and via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Margaret Batzer, Vice Chair; Gary Schwaiger, Secretary; Devin Wegner; Paul Petrovich; Shayne Machen; Linda Cudney

Members Absent: Eleanor DeYoung; Bob DeYoung; Robert Schuelke

Others Present: David Jarvi, Manistee County Planner; Sara Herberger, Manistee County Community Foundation; Sally Trisch, Dickson Township; Tim Knoper, Benzie-Manistee Dirt Birds President; Sherry Knoper, Benzie-Manistee Dirt Birds (via zoom)

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

Approval of the May 5, 2025, meeting agenda.

Ms. Batzer reminded Mr. Jarvi that the election of officers had already happened. Mistake was corrected.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer supported by Ms. Cudney to approve the May 5, 2025, meeting agenda as amended.
All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the April 7, 2025, meeting minutes.

Mr. Jarvi will edit the mistake on Page 4. Change Mr. Beldo to Ms. Batzer.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer supported by Ms. Wegner to approve the April 7, 2025, meeting minutes as amended.
All In favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Friends of SMARTrails Update: Ms. Cudney gave an update on behalf of the Friends of SMARTrails.

- Heidi Bulger and Jim Gribble, Friends of Betsie Valley Trails, attended the last SMARTrails meeting. They are proposing to clean up the Betsie Valley Trails and are having a get-together after on June 7th at Iron Fish.
- Ms. Cudney presented to TARP, which is currently working on installing a Trailhead in Thompsonville. Ms. Cudney detailed plans of trail plans for the Manistee County region. Very upbeat response.
- Still planning on holding a meeting with tribal council. Will wait till after trail is placed between Copemish and Thompsonville.
- Funds were released, construction bids have gone out for trail segment between Thompsonville and Copemish. Bids will come back may 7th.
- Working on trail flip chart, the group has also been brainstorming fundraising options.

Draft

Manistee County Snowbirds Update: No update.

Manistee County Dirt Birds Update: Mr. Knoper gave update on behalf of the Dirt Birds.

- The group is still growing in members.
- The group is looking to find more guest speakers for upcoming meetings.
- There was discussion about future trails summit.

Municipality Update: No municipality update.

Planning Department Staff Update: Mr. Jarvi gave an update on behalf of the Planning Department.

- Mr. Jarvi passed out a handout for Rec Commissioners to fill out to find a convenient time for brainstorming session.
- Mr. Jarvi explained the 5-million-dollar appropriation request for the Thompsonville to Kaleva trail segment applied for by Carmen Kott and the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Discussion ensued.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, Supported by Ms. Wegner to direct Planning Department Staff to create a letter of support for the appropriation funds. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

Future Session Brainstorming

New Business:

Initial review of Draft ORV Ordinance

- Mr. Jarvi explained the Draft ORV Ordinance and attachments.
- Will wait until next meeting to do an in-depth review.
- Discussion ensued about possible definitions to be added in Draft ORV Ordinance
- There was discussion about E-Bikes, 3-wheelers, and their relation to the ORV Ordinance.

Other Items Before the Board: None.

Discussion about open Recreation Commission positions was had.

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Mr. Beldo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

**There was a motion by Mr. Schwaiger, supported by Ms. Batzer to adjourn the meeting.
All in favor, motion carried**

Next meeting will be on June 2, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date