

Draft

June 2, 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; Paul Petrovich; Shayne Machen; Linda Cudney; Robert Schuelke; Bill Shryer

Members Absent: Devin Wegner (Via Zoom)

Others Present: David Jarvi, Manistee County Planner; Sara Herberger, Manistee County Community Foundation; Sally Trisch, Dickson Township; Claire Richards (Via Zoom)

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

Approval of the June 2, 2025, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer supported by Ms. Cudney to approve the June 2, 2025, meeting agenda as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the May 5, 2025, meeting minutes.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney supported by Mr. Petrovich to approve the May 5, 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.

- Bridge across Bear Creek is expected to be in sometime during summer.
- SMARTrails released a press release about the Thompsonville-Copemish Trail Connector and posted some info on social media.
- Ms. Cudney presented to TARP about SMARTrails. The group has received a lot of donations for trailhead and ADA campground projects.
- TARP has a video explaining projects and has a land use consultant.
- Ms. Cudney is planning on having a booth at Thompsonville Summerfest, June 16th.

Manistee County Snowbirds Update: No update.

Manistee County Dirt Birds Update: No update.

- 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.

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Municipality Update: No municipality update.

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

- Mr. Jarvi stated that the Planning Department is kicking off development of the new Countywide Recreation Plan. The first phase should start within a month or two.
- Will start with getting the word out to local units of government and begin inventory of parks and recreational assets around the County. Will start drafting plan in early fall.
- Will bring 3 chapters at a time for recreation commission to look over. 12 chapters in total for plan.
- Ms. Gruenberg and Mr. Jarvi will meet with the Road Commission Manager near Chief Lake, and discuss possible road shoulder solutions for section of Kaleva – Chief Trail which will have to go along public roads.
- Mr. Jarvi talked with Mr. Szokola and is planning on getting a press release together for the Lifejacket Replenishment Program. Will name all the players involved.
- Talk ensued about brainstorming Session on June 12, 2025

Old Business:

Review of Draft ORV Ordinance

- Mr. Jarvi compiled edits that were suggested at the last meeting.
- Ms. Batzer thinks it would make sense to keep section 6.
- There was discussion about hours of operation for operation. Ms. Trisch says Dickson Twp did not include hours of operation.
- Talk ensued about electric ORV's and if we should add language about electric ORV. Definition as of now only talks about ORV's being operated by motor.
- Discussion ensued about legality and intention of section 7.
- There was discussion about ORV fund, and if it was state law or local.
- There was discussion about ORV Map updates and if it was enough time. The commission decided to change it to November 1st to March 1st.

New Business:

No new business.

Other Items Before the Board:

Discussion about board vacancy.

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Mr. Beldo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

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

Next meeting will be on July 7, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date