



www.M119TunnelofTrees.org

M-119 TUNNEL OF TREES SCENIC HERITAGE ROUTE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 9:30

Cross Village Township Hall
5954 Wadsworth Road, Cross Village, MI

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Review Minutes of June 11th, 2024 Meeting (See attached **Page 3** for **DRAFT June 11th minutes**)

III. Partner Reports (If Available)

- a. Emmet County Planning and Zoning
- b. Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- c. Little Traverse Conservancy
- d. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- e. Networks Northwest
- f. Committee Member comments – not otherwise on agenda.

IV. On-going & Unfinished Business

- a. Adopt-a-highway program
- b. Zoo-de-Mack
- c. Discuss plans to use the budget for FY 2024 by September 30th
- d. Review progress on educational materials updates and printing and distribution
- e. Continue discussion of M-119 / Tunnel of Trees presence on Facebook.

V. New Business

- a. Discuss possible presentation to Emmet County Commission.....per request.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjourn

Next meeting on August 13th, 2024 – Friendship Township Hall - 3018 Beacon Hill Lane Harbor Springs, MI 49740 at 9:30 AM

<u>Committee Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Email Notification</u>
Sue Rentrop	Cross Village / ECLA	6007 N. Lake Shore Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-5267362	srentrop@rentropmorrison.com	Yes
Naomi Singer	Cross Village Township	6021 N.Lakeshore Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-881-0299	singernaomi@gmail.com	Yes
Laurelyne Harris	Cross Village Township	6155 N. Lakeshore Dr. PO Box 188 Cross Village MI 49723	989-245-0325	harris.laurelyne@gmail.com	Yes
Larry Wallen	Readmond Township	2091 N.Lakeshore Dr. PO Box 969 Good Hart, MI 49737	Cell: 231-838-7399	martiwallen@icloud.com	Yes
Joe Tomlinson	Readmond Township	237 N Lakeshore Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-526-6561	smokinjo44@gmail.com	Yes
Jerry Root	Readmond Township	5759 Beckon Road, Harbor Springs 49740	231-838-0678	jroot@lssu.edu	Yes
Don Schaplowsky	Readmond Township	2400 N. Lake Shore Dr. Harbor Springs MI 49740	931-261-3557	donschap12@gmail.com	Yes
Dale Scott	Friendship Township	PO Box 857 Harbor Springs MI 49740	231-357-7339	dscott@trueaccountingcorp.com	Yes
James Fisher	Friendship Township	4978 Fisher Rd. Harbor Springs MI 49740		lakepilot33@gmail.com	Yes
Carolyn Sandford	West Traverse Township	6523 Otis Ln PO Box 799 Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-330-7578	clsandfo@charter.net	Yes
Joey Arbaugh	West Traverse Township	PO Box 465, Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-526-5359 231-838-7200	jnarbaugh@gmail.com	Yes
Garon Gopigian	West Traverse Township	6975 Hughston Rd. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-412-5006	49740@att.net	Yes
Franz Neubrecht	ECLA	2573 S. Lakeshore Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-526-5170 Land 517-281-9106 Cell	franz@franzrx.com	Yes
Jim Anderson	Friendship Township	4855 S Lakeshore	408-225-0296	jcander1@wisc.edu	
<u>Committee Member Emeritus</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	
Dell Weitzel	Readmond Township	2863 North Shore Drive Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-526-7684	onedweitzel@yahoo.com	Yes
Rob Deane	Cross Village Township	(Seasonal)5590 Lower Shore Dr Harbor Springs, MI 49740 3696 Cook Valley Blvd. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546	616-456-8463 231-526-2634	f.r.deane@att.net	Yes
Henry Singer	Cross Village Township	6021 N.Lakeshore Dr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-881 -2861	hlsingermd@gmail.com	Yes
<u>Partners</u>	<u>Title/ Representing</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	
Tammy Doernenburg	Director of Planning and Zoning Emmet County	3434 M-119 Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-348-1735	tdoernenburg@emmetcounty.org	Yes
Hillary Taylor	Assistant Director of Planning & Zoning Emmet County	3434 M-119 Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-439-8961	htaylor@emmetcounty.org	Yes
Charles Laughbaum	Emmet County Commissioner, District 1 (Cross Village & Readmond Twp)	2251 Pleasantview Rd. Pellston, MI 49769	231-373-8657	claughbaum@emmetcounty.org	Yes
Neil Ahrens	Emmet County Commissioner, District 2 (Friendship Township & West Traverse Township)			nahrens@emmetcounty.org	Yes
Lisa Fineout	Township Supervisor Readmond Township	6034 Wormwood Ln Harbor Springs MI 49740	231-526-9601	superreadmondtpw@gmail.com	Yes
Heather Bowden	Transportation Planner Byways Program Manager MDOT	425 West Ottawa St. P.O. Box 30050 Lansing MI 48909.	517-643-1614	bowdenh@michigan.gov	Yes
Jay Gailitis	Gaylord TSC MDOT		989-329-9421	gailitis@michigan.gov	No
Andrew Krzysnik	Traffic & Safety Coordinator MDOT			krzysnika1@michigan.gov	No
Isha Pithwa	Transportation Planner; Networks Northwest	600 E Front St, Traverse City, 49685	231-492-8196	isha.pithwa@networksnorthwest.org	Yes
Heidi Phaneuf	North Region Planner MDOT	1088 E. M32 Gaylord MI 49735	231-340-0326	phaneufh@michigan.gov	Yes
Eric Hemenway	LTTB			ehemenway@lbbodawa-nsn.gov	Yes
Caitlin Donnelly	Director of Land Protection Little Traverse Conservancy		231-347-0991	caitlin@landtrust.org	Yes
Mathew Cooke	Community Planner Networks Northwest	PO Box 506 Traverse City, MI 49685	231-929-5056	mathew.cooke@networksnorthwest.org	No
<u>Resources</u>	<u>Title/ Representing</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	
Jason Dryja	Resident	1778 S. Lakeshore Dr.	231-373-7233	jasondryja@gmail.com	Yes
Regina Stocco	Zoo-de-Mack		248-207-4038	zoodemack@gmail.com	No
Trp. Corey Hebner	Michigan State Police			hebnerc@michigan.gov	No
Lt. Randy Kloss	Emmet County Sheriff's Office	3460 Harbor Petoskey Rd. Harbor Springs, MI 49740	231-439-8902	rkloss@emmetcounty.org	No
Todd Neiss	Resource Analyst MDOT	7915 US 131 Cadillac MI 49601	231-340-0235	neisst@michigan.gov	No



www.M119TunnelofTrees.org

M-119 TUNNEL OF TREES SCENIC HERITAGE ROUTE COMMITTEE

DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, June 11th, 2024

Readmond Township Hall

6034 Wormwood Ln, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Committee Members Present

Dale Scott, Friendship Township (Chair)
Sue Rentrop, Cross Village / Emmet County Lakeshore Association
Jim Anderson, Friendship Township
Jerry Root, Readmond Township
Don Schaplowsky, Readmond Township
Joey Arbaugh, West Traverse Township
Carolyn Sandford, West Traverse Township
Garon Gopigian, West Traverse Township
Franz Neubrecht, Emmet County Lakeshore Association
Laurelynn Harris, Cross Village Township

Partners Present

Hillary Taylor, Emmet County
Caitlin Donnelly, Little Traverse Conservancy
Tammy Doernenburg, Emmet County Planning and Zoning Director
Neil Ahrens, Emmet County Commissioner, District 2 Friendship Township & West Traverse Township)
Lisa Fineout, Readmond Township Supervisor
Ben Dubois, MDOT
Isha Pithwa, Networks Northwest

Regina Stocco, Zoo-de-Mack (Online attendance)
Sigmann, Clayton, MDOT (Online attendance)

Committee Members Absent

Naomi Singer, Cross Village Township
Larry Wallen, Readmond Township
Joe Tomlinson, Readmond Township
James Fisher, Friendship Township

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 by Chair Dale Scott. Chair led attendance by introduction/roll call to note members' presence at the meeting.

II. Review and Adoption of Minutes from May 14th, 2024

Motion by Jim Anderson, supported by Joey Arbaugh, to approve the meeting minutes for May 14th

with two suggested corrections. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Partner Reports

a. Emmet County Planning and Zoning (ECPZ) – Tammy Doernenburg

Tammy Doernenburg from Emmet County Planning and Zoning (ECPZ) updated the committee on their work on zoning ordinance and in particular to resiliency, as well as their EAGLE grant received which is coming to conclusion. The master plan is due in 2025, and input is welcome. Tammy also provided information on signage regulations: Signs that are 1 sq ft. or less or are not regulated in zoning ordinance. Larger signage are allowed on private property typical 4 sq ft. would be allowable signage. Max signage would be 18 sq ft. Signs that are required or are a part of road commission/agencies sign plans are not regulated by ECPZ. Different standards are applied for different townships.

b. LTBOI – James fisher has had a discussion with the Tribe (Eric) who was not aware of the meeting dates/locations and other information. There is limited additional information available. The committee encouraged anyone with contacts within the Tribe to share the meeting dates, locations, and other pertinent information to them. Additionally, if Tribe members are interested, their email or contact information can be added to the mailing list to keep them updated with committee activities.

c. LTC – No new updates on projects along the corridor.

d. MDOT – Update from Ben Dubois about the M-119 MDOT project to be completed this fall. Clayton Sigmann updated regarding signs that in the byway program – own signs can be developed but they will be replacing the Pure MI Byway signs and they must be funded by their own.

e. Networks Northwest (NN) – Isha updated the committee about the material edits made from last meeting as well as additional changes requested from Tammy Doernenburg earlier. An updated quote has also been requested to get an idea for planning for budget for FY25. Attached to the packet are both quotes from 2023 and 2024. Budget is due July 1st and discussions pertaining to planning and action on FY2025 budget planning is discussed in item IV e. so additional information/discussion on Budget, Material edits, etc. will be done on forthcoming items on the agenda.

f. Committee Members Comment – none.

IV. Ongoing and Unfinished Business

a. Adopt-A-Highway Program – Carolyn Sandford – none at the moment as the next adopt-a-highway cleanup will be July 13th 2024

b. Zoo-De-Mack Bike Event – Regina reported that this year's Zoo-De-Mack Bike Event went smoother than last year, despite some areas needing improvement. New signs were printed to guide cars, motorists, and riders about staying right and maintaining safety on hills. Feedback from riders suggested temporarily closing roads to thru traffic, allowing only local traffic, to enhance safety. The committee, however, noted that road closures wouldn't work for locals. The

signs, although larger, were not very visible due to their mesh type and orange color. The committee suggested using optic green for better readability. Regina agreed that the orange color was not ideal and is open to suggestions, including specific RGB color codes.

Regina also mentioned that over 2,000 riders registered for the event, which is about half of previous years' participation, typically around 3,000 or more.

- c. **Discuss plans to use the budget for FY 2024 by September 30th** - The committee discussed reports from each township regarding sign improvements. Jim reported that Friendship Township has one sign that only needs a cleanup. Joey Arbaugh noted that West Traverse Township has a sign beyond northwest on Pond Hill Drive, which is in excellent shape and the most recent sign installed. Don Schaplowsky from Readmond Township mentioned that only a cleanup is needed, with no budget required for sign improvements. Similarly, Cross Village Township requires no budget for improvements, as volunteer cleanups will suffice. Thus, there is no need for funds from this year's budget for new signs or improvements along the corridor.

The committee had set aside \$1000 for sign improvements for the FY 2024 budget to be spent by September 30th. Given that these funds are not needed for sign improvements, the committee proposed reallocating the money towards printing and requests the same to MDOT. Hence, the committee has about \$2600 for printing other than ~ 360\$ that were used for website maintenance out of the total \$3000 budget for FY24. MDOT suggested that the committee resubmit the FY 2024 budget with these changes and obtain written permission from MDOT. NN will work with the budget and MDOT to implement these adjustments.

d. **Review and discuss edits suggested by committee on educational materials –**

i. **Guidebook**

▪ **Tammy's comments**

- Pages 8-9 be updated to reflect the 2022 tree assessment.
- Pages 8-9 should be just before page 14 so that the tree information is all together
- Tammy already shared a corrected copy to work on for 2024 updated document

▪ **Naomi's comments**

- Page 2 under "The Purpose of this Guidebook" remove management i.e., – "...best *management practices*..."
- Page 3 Write full title – "Emmet County Planning and Zoning" and add "Networks Northwest" to committee partners
- Page 4 edit table of contents as needed (if we move pages 8-9 as suggested by Tammy i.e., update page numbers etc.)
- Page 5 under Goals and Objectives – see goals in current management plan
- Page 6 - discussed name for County Road 77 and group suggested to keep it as follows "County Road 77 (State Rd)"
- Page 7 revisit the map if updated and add date/year
- Page 8 - line 1 replace "2017" to "2022" ; line 3 replace "ROW" to "Right of Way" ; under non-native tree species change "~~Austrian Pine~~" to "Scotch Pine"
- p. 8 – all agree to add Scotch pine to list of non-native trees
- p. 9 – indicate that the 2022 Tree Health Assessment report is provided in the Corridor Management Plan on the project website (provide link).
- Page 10 unknown comment
- Page 11 checked the MDOT and resource website and contact information –

they are correct

- Page 15 checked information to be correct – they are correct
- Page 23 – add the word “please” in front of “ride single file”
- Page 24 add tribe information; remove “~~Harbor Area Regional Board of Resources, Inc.~~”; update year to 2024 (for all materials – Please put “Updated 2024” on the back side consistent on position) - p. 24 – LTBBOI Tribe info should replace “~~Harbor Inc.~~” under additional resources
- Whatever changes are made in the bike brochure should also be made to the guidebook and update accordingly.

ii. Share the road Bike Brochure

- Under Bicycle Tour Planning second line – add the M-119 website after “...website (www.m119tunneloftrees.org)...”; 7th line replace “... The following tips will help bikers enjoy ...” with “The following tips will help everyone enjoy the serenity”
- Under Tips for Bicyclists Please do: - first line replace “~~Enjoy the Tunnel of Trees! You have a right to use this road!~~” with “Enjoy the Tunnel of Trees.”
- Under Tips for Bicyclists Please don’t: - second point replace the “!” with “.” ; Fourth point replace “~~Litter—Leave only “treadmarks!”~~” with “Litter.”
- Under Tips for Motorists Please do: - first line replace “~~Bikers~~” with “Bicyclists”
- Under Tips for Motorists Please don’t: - remove the entire please don’t section

iii. Management Plan Trifold Brochure

- Under About the M-119 “ Tunnel of Trees” first line – replace “~~rambles~~” with “winds”
- Under About the M-119 “ Tunnel of Trees” second line – replace “~~13 miles~~” with “20 miles”
- On the center section under - What is Heritage Route? – last line of the paragraph “~~...preserve or market the corridor...~~” replace with “preserve and enjoy the corridor”
- Replace pictures with nicer ones.

Isha will send out a draft/final version with all the changes to the committee to take a final look for any corrections and then will be given for print.

e. FY 2025 Budget Planning discussion and finalize - submission due July 1st, 2024 –

- Number of Copies to spend printing Budget for FY2024 by September 20th, 2024.
 - Isha will request the new cost estimate/quote.
 - The committee decided 300 copies of each three materials i.e., Guidebook, M-119 Trifold brochure, and Bike Brochure share the road tri-fold.

Joey Arbaugh made a motion to accept printing 300 copies of each of the three materials (guidebook, m-119 tri-fold and Bike Brochure) as long as it’s under \$1500 supported by Garon Gopigian. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

- FY2025 Budget and planning activity for \$3000 (October 1st, 2024 – September 30th, 2025)
 - Website maintenance cost for LIAA ~\$500

- Printing educational materials ~\$1000
- Signage Improvements ~\$1000
- Tree Assessment ~\$250
- Public Meeting ~\$250
- Eliminate marketing from the Page 1 of the Budget
- The location of FY2025 meetings are rotated by each township alphabetically and dates are every second Tuesday starting April.

Motion by Laurelynne Harris to accept the proposed Budget for FY2025 supported by Sue Rentrop. All Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

V. New Business

- Question about Pure Michigan Byways logo. Discussion that it is not mandatory as suggested by MDOT and the committee will go with the scenic byways logo. Benjamin Dubois will be asking for more information/details regarding the topic.
- Discussion of the tunnel of Trees, M-119 Facebook Page – Don Schaplowsky discussed the social media having to collaborate and share educational information with the groups if any. Homework for the committee know if there is any option to administer the Facebook page. The committee will discuss this topic further in the next meeting with more information.

VI. Comments from the public and the board.

No public comment.

VII. Adjourn

Next meeting on July 9th, 2024 Cross Village – 5954 Wadsworth Rd., Harbor Springs, MI 49740 at 9:30 AM.

Motion by Garon Gopigian to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 AM. Supported by Sue Rentrop. Motion passes.