

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of March 17, 2010
Ovid Township Hall
1015 Baese Ct., Ovid

PRESENT:

Jack Nutter
Duane Platner
Jim Ellickson
Jeff Wadell
Phil Hanses
Jon Morrison
Gary Fritz
Dale Ladouceur
Anita Ladouceur
Ed Mikula
Gary Boersen
Joe Latoff
Tim Machowicz
Renaë Larson
Brian Randolph
Jason Wenslick
Casey Elliot – Guest Speaker
Greg Hunt – Guest Speaker

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J. Wadell led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

J. Wadell read the statement of purpose.

WELCOME NEW FACES

J. Wadell welcomed the new faces.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Casey Elliot, Sanitarian, Shiawassee County Health Department (SCHD), discussed the following:

- Point of Sale Program was implemented in 2002.
- Requires a well and septic inspection at the time of property transfer.
- Wells must meet current construction standards and have acceptable sample results.
- Sewage systems are evaluated by size and must be at least 50% of the current code requirement.
- Of 5,000 inspections, 160 homes required a sewage system repair or replacement.
- Mostly qualified private inspectors do the evaluations. SCHD has the final say on the results.

Greg Hunt, Excavation Contractor, G.A. Hunt, St. Johns, discussed the following:

- Costs vary greatly with sewage disposal systems depending on the type (e.g. aeration units, pressure mounds, sand filters, trenches, bed).
- Costs are typically \$4,000 to \$12,000.
- Sewage system regulations can also vary greatly by county.

Latoff moved to write a letter to other local health departments in the watershed to adopt a point of sale ordinance. Hanses supported the motion. Motion carried.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Morrison moved to approve the agenda. Latoff supported the motion. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A. Ladouceur provided the minutes from the Regular Monthly Meeting, January 20, 2010

D. Ladouceur moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2010 meeting. Ellickson supported the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes are posted on the FOTMR website prior to the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Morrison reported a balance of \$1653.41 in the checking account. Hanses moved to approve the Treasurer's report. A. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Liability Insurance:

- Both policies will come due at the same time.
- We will pay half the cost - \$350

Memberships:

- There are lots of new/renewal memberships coming in.
- A. Ladouceur sends out renewal reminders via email or in the mail.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice & Quiet Waters Symposium notice out to all 8 local newspapers.
- Mikula plans to have our events put in the Lansing State Journal.

Website:

- Nothing new to report.

Road Signs:

- Latoff moved to order 25 more road signs. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Some information will be changed on the signs.

Newspaper Insert:

- Nothing new to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Muskrat Lake Project:

- A memorandum of understanding needs to be finalized with all parties.

Elsie Dam:

- There were 5 proposals to address the dam:
 1. removal of existing dam
 2. lower the existing dam
 3. do nothing
 4. repair existing dam and install fish ladder
 5. multiple grade control downstream
- The multiple grade control was chosen as the best option. The estimated cost is \$1,000,000.
- Grants will be explored to fund the project.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch/Park North:

- The Parks & Recreation plan has been updated to include the parcel.
- Greenspace Commission is working on getting state funding to purchase the land.

Maple Rapids Launch South:

- Latoff spoke with the landowner of the 3 acre parcel.
- Greenspace Commission will be working with the landowner.

Downed Tree Removal Team:

- An evaluation will be made when the water level is down.
- The section from Bannister to Muir will be addressed first.

2010 River Clean-Up:

- A group will float the river prior to the clean-up to evaluate which section of the river to concentrate on.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Quiet Water's Symposium:

- The show went very well.
- Latoff, Boersen, and Morrison all helped at the FOTMR booth.
- Lots of attendees want to purchase our River Guidebook when it is complete.

River Guide Book:

- Still in process.

2010 Float Trip Date:

- A. Ladouceur will contact Linda Blemaster in Maple Rapids for the date of the Maple Rapids festival.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

319 Watershed Management Plan Status:

- We are waiting for the report to come out.
- We may be able to get future funding if we take a more active role in the monitoring effort.
- Boersen will work with Fritz on starting the monitoring effort.

Watershed Management Plan for Lower Maple River:

- Fritz plans to submit a grant application if time allows.
- Funding may only be available to implement the upper Maple plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grand River Expedition 2010:

- March 24th is a organizational meeting in Lyons.
- Ellickson & D. Ladouceur will attend the meeting.

MAEAP Promotion

- Wadell has been making contacts re: MAEAP.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Fritz spoke of activities at the Clinton County Conservation District. Contact Cara Clore @ clorec@clinton-county.org if you are interested in helping with the clean-up day.
- Randolph discussed a concern regarding “mud-bogging” in flooded areas next to the river.
- Machowicz offered Sleepy Hollow State Park as a future FOTMR meeting location.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting will be held on May 19, 2010 at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 E. State Street (M-21), St. Johns.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hanses moved to adjourn the meeting. Morrison seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to info@friendsofthemapleriver.org.