

NLMI Cultural Subcommittee Meeting
Draft of Minutes
Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Peaine Township Hall

Call in #: **1-415-464-6800**
Passcode: **49782 followed by the # sign**

Present on the phone: Wes Andrews, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Lee Boisvert, Terri Bussey, Pam Grassmick, Alvin LaFreniere, and Bobbi Welke

1. Call the Meeting to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lee Boisvert at 7:03 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes from January 12th were circulated electronically. (Terri/Bobbi) Unanimously adopted from the re-draft without changes.

3. Islands Collaborative Meeting Recap on 2/9/2017. Lee reminded the subcommittee that the next NLMIC will be held on May 4th on Beaver Island. Wes commented on the good information being discussed at that meeting, the proposed Communication Fellow, wildlife management, and invasive species control efforts. Wes detailed at the NLMIC meeting the work of this subcommittee and that of his department within the LTBB. Lee expressed that the Fellow has the potential of improving public understanding of cultural resources. She further expressed that the Squaw/Woman's Island lighthouse is to be developed as a B & B and may increase the demand to develop activities on surrounding state held islands. Charles and Tracy Blakeman (?sp) from Extreme Adventures were proposing the development of programs for veterans and the disabled on the outer islands. The consensus was that the outer islands were difficult to traverse and the bugs were often inhospitable. The subject of ORV use was discussed and the subcommittee will provide input into the planning with Brian Mastenbrook during public comment. Lee expressed that no ORVs are allowed in the cemetery and MKD members have found beer cans, bike marks, and funerary objects removed. Alvin offered that perhaps more signage was needed at the MKD property. Lee will consider. The subcommittee felt that ORVs had no place on the outer islands and lack of enforcement is an issue.

4. BIHS grant writing for Cultural Subcommittee: Wes discussed the desire to hire a cultural resource manager for the islands. After reviewing the list submitted by Lori on possible funding sources, he found approximately a dozen. Lori stated at the November 17th Beaver Island Historical Society meeting that the board agreed to act as the pass-through agent for grants. She offered to review grants for the subcommittee. Bobbi commented that the board also agreed to provide space and host the person once hired. Wes described the process of doing a cultural resource's archeological assessment. He felt it would be very difficult for one person to do the field work, catalog, research, define area, and write the final reports. Wes proposed that this subcommittee hire a company familiar with the scope of work needed, submit an RFP, obtain permits, and complete a detailed report. Discussion took place on various universities and individuals who are involved in archeological digs around the island. Bussey indicated that some are very professional while others have yet to submit reports or return artifacts to the BIHS. Wes is meeting with Dean Anderson, SOM Archeologist, the first part of March. He will

inquire about funding. A motion was made by Bobbi Welke to seek a consultant to perform archaeological research on the Beaver Island archipelago. To that end, Pam Grassmick will lead a team performing landscape mapping of preferential sites, Wes Andrews will prepare a scope of work, and the BIHS will issue a Request for Proposal as well as sponsor grant writing to secure the necessary funds. Alvin LaFreniere seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Pam commented that the island has individuals who can provide grant writing assistance. A dedicated small team would need to be identified. It was further suggested that the Wildlife Division's yearly work budget schedule for the archipelago be understood.

5. Archeologist Contract: Bussey explained the need for the development of an accountability contract. Incidents where artifacts are removed and not return have occurred. She suggested a policy whereby the BIHS Director would be the identified party to enter into an accountability agreement with the archeologist. The goal is to provide the archeologist with incentives for documenting their work on the islands while protecting artifacts and providing a complete story. Having reports on file and available at the BIHS would enhance the archeologist's studies. It would be agreed that these artifacts will be on display. Terri suggested that a policy be developed by the BHIS attorney, approved by the BIHS board, submitted to the LTBB and the GTB for approval. The Director, Lori Taylor-Blitz will submit this policy to both township boards under the form of a resolution or another identified mechanism. Members of this committee will assist in drafting. Terri will develop a Master Contract which will be signed by the archeologist for each excavation site. Wes complimented the current Island Master Planning effort under LIAA to have included cultural resource wording. Pam will ask Bob Tidmore about the Charlevoix County Planning Commission documents related to cultural resource management. Wes reminded the subcommittee about the exploitation of cultural resources and it is not limited to artifacts. Wes will submit a letter of support from the LTBB. It is anticipated that Northern Michigan University will be returning artifacts this summer.

6. Beaver Island Historical Society Report. Bobbi Welke reported on the 5 page document that she prepared related to the NLMIC to enhance our understanding of the charge/goals for the BIHS and Cultural Subcommittee. Members of this subcommittee felt it was valuable and thanked Bobbi for her efforts. Changes to the document and comments are requested for the next meeting. Bobbi notified the subcommittee that the BIHS board has authorized \$2500.00 to be directed to support the funding for an Island Communication Fellow. Questions were raised regarding how the NLMIC derives its authority. It was noted that the NLMIC is a new procedure to assist with the DNR's Management Plan for the archipelago. Lee and Wes to follow up with Pat Lederle regarding legal relationships of partners. "What happens if the state/Wildlife Division changes its position?"

7. Adjournment It was agreed that the subcommittee would meet again the last week in March. There being no further business before the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Grassmick 2/20/2017