

Meeting Minutes for Cultural Subcommittee to the NLMIC
August 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM
Peaine Township Hall and Conference Call

1. Participants: Lee Boisvert, Pam Grassmick, Alvin LaFreniere, Kitty McNamara, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Bobbi Welke, Melissa Wiatrolik
2. Prior Meeting Minutes: The June 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by those present and will be posted.
3. Report on 4 or 5 miles as proposed protection area around the entire archipelago – Lee:
 - a. The Coastal Zone Management covers the entire Archipelago land-wise. The State of Michigan owns the bottom lands, not the Army Corps of Engineers (COE). The COE is responsible for an action when someone is building a dock or boat house.
 - b. We need to clearly articulate what we want to protect and why. We need to consider a range of protections and preservations. Lee is considering various tribal plans – as an example, vistas can be a resource. Lee is to reconsider our cultural resource definition.
4. Mission Statement - Lee: **“Preserve and protect the past, present, and future cultural resources of the Beaver Island Archipelago.”** The new mission statement was approved by all, with ‘cultural resources’ added.
5. Goals – to come later
6. Letter of Interest and MOU – Lee: Lee inquired about seeking support from others to do committee work; members of the committee concluded we have this now, it is not needed unless we were seeking to hire an employee (e.g., cultural resource manager) or become part of the Historical Society (both of which the Beaver Island Historical Society [BIHS] has already agreed to support). We agreed to await the future direction of the Collaborative to determine any further action. In addition, with the Island Fellow starting in September and her focus on Communication, this will include adding signage to the island which will further the mission of the Cultural Subcommittee.
7. Wild Rice on the island – Lee: Lee asked if wild rice is on the island. Pam reported that some wild rice is at Fox Lake, but it requires management, for instance, swans would ‘come’. Kitty thought that Sweeney’s Swamp may have wild rice. Alvin shared that the Game club planted wild celery in the 1950’s on various lakes.
8. Proposed archaeological contract/policy – Lori: The SHPO review of BIHS proposed policy was turned down since the Society does not have any authority or specialists to coordinate activities with archeologists and university researchers. Committee members suggested that informational statements guiding citizens were necessary – what would a person do if they found a human bone? Perhaps a resource sheet could be prepared by the two Townships? It is

understood that more education leads to more sensitivity. Kitty volunteered to inquire with other Townships regarding any experiences with archeology interaction policy development. Lori will continue to keep trying to work on her version with the SHPO. A visit to the SHPO office may be another step. There is an opportunity for this visit on or about October 26th.

- a. A 2018 Smithsonian Exhibit visit to the island requires October 26th Lansing visit. This Smithsonian Exhibit, which cannot be publicly shared until after the related Michigan Humanities August 21st Public Release, covers a Waterways Programming Partnership exhibit next summer – June 23 – August 5th. Since Beaver Island will be the first of six sites for the calendar year, we will be considered the Hosting Site. Twenty people will be joining us on the island, including those from the second site. The visitors will be paying for lodging and food. There will be a key-note speaker, incentives will be provided for waterways programming. One of two exhibits is 20' long - S shape.
9. Upcoming August 17th NLMI Collaborative Meeting at St. James Township Hall – Pam: The Landscaping Level Committee through tribal funding is doing inventorying. The US Fish and Wildlife is funding work on the spit at High Island to protect the Plover.
10. Committee Note: Today's meeting represents Pam Grassmick's final participation in her last Cultural Subcommittee meeting. She is stepping down to focus on her many other activities, though she will stay active with the NLMIC. The Cultural Subcommittee thanks Pam for her work on behalf of the committee, she is a valuable island resource and quite knowledgeable. Her meeting minutes were always excellently prepared. Bobbi Welke agreed to prepare meeting minutes for the Cultural Subcommittee.
11. Adjournment at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Welke