

## **Recreation Committee Meeting**

**Date:** November 4, 2013

**When:** 10:00a.m.

**Where:** Portage Township Office

**Who Present:** John Ollila and Bill Bingham (Rec. Comm. Members), Anne Clancy Klemme, Pete Wickley, Dan Dalquest (Public Representatives), Bruce Petersen, Supervisor and Pat Coleman from UPEA

### **Discussion Points:**

- Began meeting with a discussion about the existing \$50,000.00 worth of funding that the MDNR has set aside to address a few culvert replacements, brushing and spot gravelling on the Chassell to Houghton Trail. The money has been set aside and dutifully earmarked for this trail – Ron Yesney (MDNR) indicated that the money will not be taken away – the DNR would like some input as to where and how it will be used to address the three issues mentioned above. There is an option to use the money as up to a 25% match to pursue further funding from the MDNR's Recreation Trust Fund. That grant requires a minimum 25% match and has an opening date of April 1, 2014 with possible construction beginning in 2015. MDOT Transportation grant funding would require a minimum 14ft top width if successfully gotten - which the Homeowners would not like – so that funding source was ruled out.
- The next discussion item was whether or not the Portage Lake Landowners Association, represented by Peter Wickley, would be interested in pursuing a larger grant utilizing the existing \$50,000.00 as a match. The group wanted to make sure that if additional funding was pursued that the sponsors of the grant, in this case it would be both Portage and Chassell Twps., would be able to dictate how those additional funds would be spent. The Twps. would only pursue the improvements that the Homeowners Association said that they want. The larger, leveraged grant funding could be used for additional culvert replacements, safety signage/trail features plus possible further surfacing.

- The Homeowners Association Representative suggested that he and his representatives approach a number of adjacent homeowners to the trail and find out just what and how they would like the MDNR money spent to improve the trail. Would they like to leverage it to a larger sum so that this recreational project would have a larger scope with more benefits to the community? A “MDNR Chassell to Houghton Trail Grant Fact Sheet” will be created outlining the two options so the Homeowners Assoc. Rep could use it to inform people about their two grant funding options.
- Lastly, another Recreation Committee Meeting was scheduled for December 5, 2013 at 10:00a.m. at the Portage Township Office to review the Homeowners Responses and to prepare a Recreation Committee recommendation, if need, to the Portage Twp. Board for the Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to pursue the leveraged additional Rec. Trust Fund dollars.
- Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bruce Petersen  
Portage Twp. Supervisor