

Village of Elberta
Special Meeting FINAL
Elberta Beach Improvements MNRTF
January 31, 2019

Start of meeting 7:12 pm

Present: Jen Wilkins, Ken Holmes, Mary Kalbach, Becky Addis

Public: Chris Sullivan, Ken Mlcek, Sue Oseland, Rory O'Grady, Beth Roethler, James Baker, John Drury

J. Wilkins asked if anyone wanted the Scope of the project read. No.

K. Mlcek made the presentation of the project. Showed the map & explained the project to re-open a portion of the beach, gravel parking areas, split rail fence, pavilion, public restroom, trail to the pier. Primary design is to control the use, open part of the beach and be ADA accessibility, keep people where they are suppose to be.

J. Drury asked what is the length of the road.

A- 500 feet south

W here is the easement? Will the road be widened?

A- No, we only have 50 feet.

Next phase?

A- Grant applications due April 1st for 1st phase.

C. Sullivan – Projects are decided in December and it is a couple of years process. Grand Traverse Land Conservancy will raise funds to match (25%), MNRTF 75%, developmental grants.

Time line?

A- 2 years approximately.

B. Roethler – Is this application the same like last year with MNRTF?

A- Yes, point system, but amount varies.

J. Drury – will the restrooms be plumbed?

K. Mlcek – no, they will have a vault style.

J. Baker - Split rail fence – something less likely to be destroyed.

K. Mlcek - Look at other options.

S. Oseland – asked what was in the scope?

A - Bathroom, pavilion, ADA walkway, parking area & parking beyond barrier.

S. Oseland - Budget question on Bye St.

A- DNR doesn't pay for the street. 48 parking spots at the 2nd parking area.

J. Wilkins – Kerby's estimate for Bye St. is \$11,000. It is a major street.

S. Oseland – does ACT 51 cover all of Bye St.?

J. Wilkins – Yes, to the end of Bye St.

B. Roethler – Will the project connect in with the Betsie Valley Trail, Beach to Beach?

J. Wilkins - Met with J. Kennedy & John & talked about the grant and how it will affect the trail.

K. Holmes – that is the plan. Follow Furnace St, go to Waterfront Park for the trail.

B. Roethler – Beautiful project. Will the barrier stay up this summer?

J. Wilkins- asked for suggestions. Project won't start this year.

J. Drury – can't get through the barrier with a beach cart. Can the barrier be moved a little so a cart with gear can get through?

J. Baker - Do we need to get 3 estimates for Bye St?

J. Wilkins - Yes, when the time comes - we have Kerby's & Flies & Vanderbrink already.

B. Roethler – who is our grant writer?

Chris Sullivan is our grant writer.

B. Roethler & J. Wilkins - both thanked C. Sullivan for his work.

J. Wilkins – Jon Keiller got a meeting together August 9th – project has been a long time coming. Need boundaries to be enforced by our law enforcement. Support something like this, so it can be safe for everyone.

K. Holmes – No parking at the beach, so law enforcement can enforce that.

J. Drury – seemed to make too much – few ruined it for all.

K. Holmes - Put foot down, for years people leaving junk on the beach.

J. Wilkins – signs, markers so we'll know where you can go. Entities will be working together.

J. Drury suggested we charge to use/permit. Can we charge to use beach, to monitor & generate money?

J. Wilkins – With the grant we can't charge a fee to use the beach.

B. Roethler – a nice place will show being nice & people will show respect & love, will want to keep it nice.

J. Wilkins – Need to establish rules, respect will follow. We will need to generate money to maintain the beach/park, looking at food trucks, rent the pavilion. Grant won't allow us to charge to use or park.

K. Holmes - Need to know what people can and cannot do.

J. Wilkins - There are volunteer groups that help clean up the beach. Council has to have a plan for future upkeep of the beach to remain open.

B. Roethler – accept volunteers to help keep clean.

J. Wilkins - any volunteers would be helpful.

S. Oseland – Fisherman, maybe some would volunteer to help keep the beach cleaned.

J. Drury – fight over the 4th of July a couple of years ago. The assault got a lot of attention at that time.

S. Oseland - there was a web page about the beach.

J. Wilkins – Closing the road was the solution at the time. The project is the next solution. Had to do something right away. The grant is an opportunity we can't pass up.

K. Holmes - We had the most beautiful beach in the area. People wrecked things, burned & destroyed things.

J. Drury – not a fun summer without access to the beach.

J. Wilkins – best control for now.

J. Drury – Phase II

J. Wilkins – Mobi Mat, more parking, another bathroom, another pavilion, and more ADA compliance, road and next access point - extend Lakeside Blvd. Need to find out if it will be a major or local street.

There will be a lot of research to do this.

K. Holmes - any more questions?

J. Drury – Easements are from Sand Products

J. Wilkins - Plotted lots of Sand Products. Have it clearly defined where people can go and where they can't.

C. Sullivan – showed areas on the map that can be used. The easements are not private.

Announcements:

Next meeting is February 21st at 7 pm.

Adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Submitted & Approved by Elberta Village Council on February 21, 2019

Becky Addis, Clerk