

VII. Presentation of Area Reports

Skurdall and Browning went to a meeting about the Crystal Lake Watershed Overlay. The Benzie conservation district attended. Jerry Smith requested that the Benzie Conservation District be invited to a council meeting. Skurdall reported that John Ransom from Benzie Conservation District is the lake biologist and a water quality expert from Beulah. He attended and communicated that the water turnover rate for Crystal Lake is 32 years and the percentage of the lake that is the watershed is 35%. Platte only takes up 2% of the watershed. This is why it is important to educate people in Beulah about how much Crystal Lake impacts the watershed. He feels that there should be 15' of protected area between the properties and the lake.

Behm felt this was important to understand for the Master Plan discussion.

Smith reported that the Crystal Lake Walk About is a walk around the lake for local 6th graders on May 20th. Discussions by John Ransom will take place about riparian rights, boat washing, and the watershed system. Ransom will show how the drones help with keeping the lake clean. The PC discussed wash stations and how important they are, and to consider for the Master Plan.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – 5% of fees goes to the TC Chamber for marketing. 2% of fees goes to Pure Michigan. Small businesses would like this reviewed because they don't see the benefit in the fees being used for Marketing. The Beulah Chamber of Commerce was absorbed into TC. The PC discusses this in detail.

Smith asks Browning about a retaining pond and it needing to be dredged. Wants to know if it was a designed project? Browning thinks it was naturally occurring pond.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2023 Village of Beulah Owner/Resident Survey – continued

The format has been updated to simplify the presentation of the data. The PC was requested to review and make comments at the next meeting so that the final version can be posted on the website

b. Master Plan update – continued –

A hard copy was passed out previously. ZA did not receive feedback from anyone on the PC via email. Browning said an email was sent to Cypher. Smith has comments and the PC discusses whether or not to do it together or send comments via email. Optional to have special meeting – ZA will have a challenge attending.

All members do not have the same version, Master Plan redistributed via email to members. A meeting for the PC to review everyone's comments will be set up after May 1st where comments will be discussed and the Master Plan will be modified accordingly.

Smith asks if the format is set in stone. Cypher says it's been reformatted and customized to create a standard template. There was a question about swampland on the zoning map and how to categorize land use for this type of land. PC discusses whether or not all land uses noted in the legend need to be there. There may be potential for consolidation.

Skurdall – they should make the MP customized to fit Beulah. It should be friendly to anyone reading it. Cypher: Studies show that most people don't care about an MP, unless it impacts them.

There is a discussion about grants and having a grant writer on staff. ZA reports that having

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a seasoned grant writer to do this is what is needed. The scoring process can make or break a project when applying for a grant. Popour reports that he applied for an electric car charging station. He also found out that that the US-31 corridor is on a state list. He also applied for one in the Village, but was too late for this year but will apply in 2025. Regarding funding; 1/3 is paid by MI, 1/3 through the Fed Govt, and 1/3 by Crystal Mountain.

- X. Zoning Administrator Comment - none
 - XI. Planning Commission Comment - none
 - XII. Public Comment - (limited to three minutes per person unless extended by chair) - NA
 - XIII. Adjournment – Browning moves to adjourn, Smith seconds, all in attendance vote aye and the meeting is adjourned at 5:31.
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NOTE: No Village of Beulah Council business will be conducted at this meeting.