

Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday July 21, 2009
Historic Union School
200 North Ann Arbor Street, Saline

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jan Godek, Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Barbara Fuller, Ann Harris

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

City of Saline: Gretchen Driskell, Pat Little, David Rhoads

Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning: Brett Lenart

York Township: Gary Zajac

LIAA: Heather Seyfarth

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from June 16, 2009

Motion by Fuller, supported by Steeb, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. LIAA Partnerships for Change

Heather Seyfarth of LIAA reviewed the brainstorming results from the last meeting (see <http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/072109communitycharacter.pdf>).

Tonight's focus was on the "Needs Matrix" of issues and problems identified at the previous meeting (see <http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/072109needsmatrix.pdf>).

- Preserve active farmland, manage the expansion of subdivisions, and promote infill development.
 - Establish a farmland preservation program
 - Develop an urban service district / growth boundary
 - Example: Newaygo Community Growth Management Plan (City of Newaygo, Brooks Township, and Garfield Township) was discussed. The communities collectively decided where development should and should not occur and where urban (water and sewer) services should be provided. The individual municipalities retain detailed planning and zoning responsibilities. The project's website is <http://newaygogmi.org/>. The final plan may be viewed at http://newaygogmi.org/downloads/20090515_newaygo_gmi_plan_final_1.pdf.
 - Collaborate on Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances
 - The 2004 SSC Regional Planning Guidelines document does not have an implementation plan.
 - The SSC Regional Planning Guidelines appears to be a good basis for detailed agreements such as Urban Service Districts and a Regional Growth Management Plan.
 - We need a process which will arrive at specific deliverables.
 - We need to include the stakeholders from each community.
- Maintain roads.

- Develop a road maintenance improvement plan and work with WATS and the Road Commission to secure funding.
- How do we bring additional funding into the region?
- Increase non-motorized transportation options, preserve and enhance area-wide parks.
 - Develop a regional recreation authority.
 - Develop a regional recreation plan with an emphasis on non-motorized transportation.
- Definition of Urban Services District(s) for the Saline region appears to be the highest priority. LIAA can assist in the process, but additional funding will be required. Deadline for LIAA grant applications is September 15.

4. Next Meeting

- The August meeting will include Planning Commission members and Board of Trustees / City Council members. It will be held at a Saline School facility to be determined. Brett Lenart will schedule the meeting around scheduled meetings of the member organizations. The intent is to educate stakeholders on the why and how of our process.

5. Future Agenda Items

- Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region
- Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

6. Meeting Notices and Announcements

- July 3 memorial for Daniel Throop (Revolutionary War soldier) at Judd Cemetery was well attended.
- Pittsfield Township has selected a consultant to help revise its Master Plan.
- Brett Lenart is getting different responsibilities. We may have a new representative from Washtenaw County.
- The SSC received a thank you note from the family of Walt Godek.
- Saline Leadership Institute class of 2009-2010 has developed a vision of what the community will look like in 2014 (see <http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/072109SLIVision.pdf>).

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at www.salinesustainability.org.