

Minutes of Hiles Planning Committee

December 8, 2015

6:30 PM

Hiles Town Hall

Meeting called to order: By Mark Ferris 6:30 PM. A sign in sheet was provided for all in attendance.

In Attendance: Mark Ferris, Terry Kloehn, Margaret Tauer-McCarthy, Marilyn Pfeiffer, Dick Rausch, Jan Rausch, Dean Shramka & Don Strand

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Dick Rausch to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2015 meeting, Second by Marilyn Pfeiffer. All in favor, Motion passed.

Topics for discussion:

- **Forest County Signage Project:** A guest Speaker, Josh Jameson, Executive Director of Forest County Economic Development Partnership gave a presentation and passed out informational packets dedicated to town signage process. What the intent is that this will be standard directional signage though out Forest County, We have had discussions in our first couple of meetings so we have some familiarity how this all ties in with the Scenic Byway in trying to put together a coordinated plan. There is a lack of signage in Forest County and the lack of signage goes hand & hand with tourist not being able to find the things they want to find. Seeing as the tourism industry is one of largest economical factor in Forest County, signage is on top of the list. Information was given on purpose, size, sign standards, wording and cost, who would pay for it? The town pays and a lot of this comes from the room taxes that are collected thought-out the counties .With the Scenic Byway going right through Hiles these signs as well as a new Welcome to Hiles sign would certainly help visitors feel like we really welcome them in our town. Mark asked for an update on The Quarterly Management Plan which is in phase 3 of the project which has a deadline of February 1st for the permits that we will need from the DOT So that this could be completed by July of 2016; the goal is to have the whole project completed in 2 years. We were all asked that each of us look into

where we would suggest the placements of the signs be and what we would suggest they would say, so that at the next Planning Committee meeting we have something to take to the Town Board. A motion was made by Dick Rausch and 2nd by Marilyn Pfeiffer that Mark Ferris would take a preliminary report to the Town board to go forward with this signage project. All in favor. motion passed

Announcements, Old Business and Updates

- **Kiosk:** The Kiosk project was approved at the last Town Board Meeting the Town of Hiles accepted the offer of the Forest County Tourism to be the first community in Forest County to have a kiosk. The committee discussed placement areas for the Kiosk, one was the by the town garage and the one was where the welcome to Hiles sign. Discussion followed on what might work and what we would need to accomplish this. A May 15th completion date was set for the Kiosk. A motion was made by Dick Rausch that Mark Ferris will take the recommendation about the placement to the Town Board Meeting tomorrow night. Margaret Tauer-McCarthy a second All in favor. Motion passed. In the January meeting we will start working on the Designs for the kiosk.
- **Hiles 10 year Plan:** Marilyn Pfeiffer had asked that Mark Ferris bring this up at the town board meeting and see if this is on track.
- **Digital sign:** The digital sign by the Town Hall has many capabilities and hopefully Cathy Votis will take this task on. Will need a events calendar.
- **Mission statement:** Had a discussion on both of the mission statement that had been submitted and it was decided to go with the modified version submitted by Barry McLeane. Motion made by Dick Rausch & a second by Marilyn Pfeiffer All in favor Motion passed. The Mission statement will read as follows: **The Town of Hiles Planning Committee serves as an appointed committee of Town Board. Its responsibilities are to include identify and making recommendations to the Town Board that aim to enhance the experience of visitors and residents of the community.**

- **Forest County Tourism grant:** This will be put on the calendar for March Meeting. The grant Application is not due until April.
- **Silent Sports:** Asked Margaret Tauer-McCarthy to be the point person for the silent sports she agreed.
- **Broadband:** Mark Ferris had an extended conversation with Angi Schreiber, Executive Director of Grow North Development Corp. which could be a great tool for the Town of Hiles. Some positive things are on the front and could be reality by 2016. Significant funds are going into the Northern area for broadband expansion to Cellcom, ATt&T & Frontier. A motion was made that Mark Ferris take to the Town Board that The Planning Committee view Grow North as a great resource for the Town of Hiles to join them as a Non Profit Partnership . It would cost \$500.00 .Motion made by Dick Rausch and a second by Don Strand. All approved. Motion Passed.
- **ATV Snow Mobile Trail:** Regarding Church parking lot Gus, the president of the church board would like to avoid this for now as they feel there would be other options available. If it comes back that there wouldn't be any other options we could possibly go back and talk about it.
- **Next Meeting:** Will be Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM
- **Motion to adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn meeting by Dick Rausch, a second by Terry Kloehn, All in Favor. Motion passed at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Jan Rausch