



Groen Visioning Committee

Wednesday, October 6, 2009 – 10:30 a.m.
Room 212 – Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Harkness called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Roll call – Present: Robert Harkness, John Burt, Jim Hilgendorf, Mike Tarbutton, Don Sklarczyk, Matt Nowak, Pam Duczkowski

Excused – Butch Fleming

NEW BUSINESS

A. Background Information

Mr. Burt distributed the draft conservation easement for the property, and the draft baseline study prepared by the Conservation District, to the Committee members. Burt asked Committee members to familiarize themselves with the documents since these documents can provide insights into Mr. Groen's wishes for preserving the property. Burt also asked Committee members to let him know what they thought were the main categories of topics to address in a master plan for the property

The Committee requested a copy of the video made of Mr. Groen sharing his vision for the property. Burt will forward the request to Mr. Groen.

B. Miscellaneous

The Committee discussed holding the meetings in Johannesburg at a Township facility in the future, and to include Frank Latusek as a member of the Committee.

The Committee discussed putting out a request for photographs or historical information on the property, at some point in the process. They also discussed requesting that tools that came from the property, and are now housed at Hartwick Pines State Forest or Greenfield Village, be loaned back to the property in the future.

The Committee discussed the need to preserve Mr. Groen's privacy, including making sure any information on the Nature Center makes it clear that the property remains private and that public access is not authorized. The Committee also decided to ask Frank Latusek whether he would like signs create to put along the border of the property to make it clear that the property is not open to the public.

Mr. Sklarczyk indicated that he would like to see a governance plan in place, including which service groups or people might be in charge of which areas of interest for the Nature Preserve.

Mr. Harkness adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.