



Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

December 1, 2010

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Lake County Planning Commission in Painesville. Visitors at this meeting were: Ms. Korrie Gundling and Ms. Marissa Folk from Notre Dame Cathedral Latin in Chardon, Mr. Rick Amos, Perry Township Trustee and Mr. Max Sorensen from Madison.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Advey, Cain, Gilmer, Landeg, Urbanski, Webster and Welch. Staff present: Mr. Boyd, and Ms. Myers.

MINUTES

Mr. Welch moved to approve the August 25, 2010 minutes as submitted. Mr. Advey seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Madison Township Parks

Mr. Boyd stated Madison Township Park was at the end of Hubbard Road in Madison Township. They submitted a permit to the Army Corps of Engineers including three potential offshore barriers and an improved boat launch. Based on a conversation with Matrix Engineering, the Township is anticipating a new stipulation, probably in lieu of the circumstances at North Perry Village. The stipulation stated something to the effect that the financial wherewithal had to be shown in order to remove improvements in the water if they didn't work. There was a great concern of not only this project being stopped, but that future coastal development with offshore protection may also have similar stipulations.

The following concerns were questioned at the meeting:

- Enough money in a fund set aside to remove the improvements in the water if it didn't work.
- Increased monitoring requirements from a two year to a 10 year twice-a-year sand monitoring. The monitoring area had also been vastly expanded.

Mr. Urbanski said Lake Metroparks has not seen any of these questionable permit stipulations in any of their contracts. Mr. Urbanski suggested the best thing to do might be to talk to the person who authored the changes to the stipulations and find out why it was done. Maybe something could be done to change the situation by getting together with this person.

Everyone was in agreement that this Committee needed to do all they could to discover who initiated these stipulations and to try to change the situation. Both Mr. Boyd and Mr. Loftus of the Lake County Port Authority have been trying to reach the Colonel at the Buffalo District to no avail. It was agreed that further investigation should be done to see if this was a localized initiative because of North Perry Village or if this was coming from the top. Maybe this situation could be favorably resolved.

The Port Authority is also very concerned about the long-term impact this could have. This could stop the entire County coastal development initiative, especially from the lower budget township/village prospective.

Madison Township checked into the possibility of setting aside some of the State Capital dollars they initially received for this purpose and ODNR had checked with the bonding companies and were told no. Madison Township will probably not pursue their boat launch plans and just do a cement ramp for boaters with the offshore barriers in the first permit. Trapping the sand can be an issue as seen in North Perry because they cannot afford to dredge two or three times a year, or even once for that matter.

Also there was an issue about the sand needing to be removed if it goes too far out to the breakwaters. Mr. Advay stated that once the beach area would fill up behind the barriers, the sand would bypass that area and go down the coast as it always has.

There is a very successful offshore barrier structure down drift from Madison Township Park at the Madison Coming's Homestead Association. This was approved by the Corps and could be used by them as models. In Geneva-on-the-Lake, barrier islands were put in the Lake and they have sand 150 feet further out to the two barrier islands. When Madison Township saw what Madison Shores did with the barriers, they knew they would be able to accomplish what they wanted to do at their parks with the money they had available. They were on their way to doing this when the new stipulations surfaced.

With all those present in accord and the Lake County Port Authority on the same page, Mr. Boyd said they would pursue these concerns further and attempt to talk to the author to find out more about the background on the stipulation changes. If we can get this cleared up, Madison Township could have everything in the ground next summer.

Madison Township started looking at the Stanton Park shoreline. Current efforts are focused on the drainage of the bluff, peeling it back, and looking at shoreline protection. The Lake County Engineer is assisting with these efforts.

Mr. Landeg explained the Federal dollars are transportation dollars, which means it is the role of a Metropolitan Planning Organization, which is NOACA in Northeast Ohio to handle. It made sense since the County Engineer deals with transportation funds on a regular basis that they would fill out the application to get the project on the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan). This has been done and we will be on the TIP in the next quarterly cycle. The other action they are doing is helping to write a scope of work for Stanton Park. Things like the monitoring plan and the calculation of a slush fund might also be added to the scope of work to the consultant for layout purposes. Mr. Advay said the Township needs to go forward with this project because of the loss of beach every year and the bluff issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Ashtabula County Coastal Project

Ashtabula County solicited a meeting including Mr. Boyd, Mr. Loftus, Ashtabula Commissioner Dan Claypool and a Conneaut Port or Ashtabula Port gentleman about a month ago to discuss how Lake County got to where we are now. They would like to join arms with us to strengthen our approach on the northeast Ohio shoreline. They applied for a coastal grant to get their phase one study off the ground. Mr. Boyd agreed to help out logistically. They wanted our Planning Commission to do the work, but we had to decline because of lack of time and technical staff due to new tasks assigned by the Lake County Commissioners.

Mr. Gilmer asked what organization is leading this effort and was told the Ashtabula Planning Commission and Commissioner Claypool, who is a huge supporter of this project.

Perry Township Park

Perry Township has finished their slope project. Mr. Welch gave the floor to Trustee Rick Amos who remarked that the finished project is beautiful. He stated he is really excited about the prospects there.

Mr. Boyd said they basically peeled it back and let it go natural grade to the sand. Hopefully that will stabilize over the winter and, if the money is there and we can get rid of stipulation 19, they will be able to do the breakwaters. There is a little nook where they get a natural beach and this would enhance that area.

Eastlake City

Mr. Boyd is still attempting to work with First Energy Real Estate to figure out what they plan to do. With the news of the plant going idle periodically, it has gotten pretty quiet in that area. Mr. Cain stated that Akron Real Estate has basically shut their doors for discussion to every one lately. Number five is up and running, the rest of the units will be idle for an indefinite period.

Mr. Boyd met with the livery people in Eastlake and they seemed excited about what they have accomplished and are looking forward to continuing. Mr. Cain said these people were bringing a sizeable amount of money into the community and the people love the use of the kayaks, etc. The goal is still to open up this area for increased recreational use and ultimately link the area with the City of Willoughby parks along the Chagrin River. Mr. Boyd said that he and Mr. Urbanski will need to revisit this situation. Mr. Cain made a statement that the guy from ODNR said this was the type of project he was looking for with the park, waterway access, canoe livery, introduction to waterway items, etc.

Mr. Urbanski said Lake Metroparks would like to look at a plan to link a trail corridor in there through Chagrin River Park, etc. Mr. Cain said he thought the Akron-based people would probably be a better starting place rather than First Energy in light of the slowdowns. Mr. Urbanski added that, typically, the waterway safety fund money has been pretty available.

North Island

Concerning North Island, the Eastlake Port Authority is desirous to continue with this project and is willing to invest a little bit of effort.

Mr. Urbanski had a title exam done on North Island and the title is kind of a mess with hundreds of potential interested parties. Mr. Cain said there is a law about where shareholders of a property consist of too many disinterested parties, the few interested parties could force a public sale of the property. If the title could become marketable, there may be something Lake Metroparks could do.

Willoughby Parks

The City of Willoughby received a coastal grant. They are looking at two lakefront holdings, Osborne Park and Sunset Beach Park. They have hired a consulting firm to do an analysis of these two facilities. The north end of Osborne Park is totally vacant for over a quarter of a mile from the parking lot to the water. They have outlots on some of the old streets that run north/south in north Willoughby and north Mentor where they own sidelots that could be used for parking. The City is looking into how to get more parking and trails up to the waterfront and, ultimately, look at a fishing pier or a new public beach. The demand for a beach on the western end of Lake County is great.

New Bait and Tackle in Madison Twp.

Mr. Max Sorenson stated he bought the property (gas station) across the street from Madison Township Park that was sitting empty for about 12 years. He is putting in a bait and tackle shop and a jet ski rental. He could do what he planned to do without the improvements, but it would be a lot easier to launch jet skis with them. He plans to construct a dock on wheels that he can put in the Lake to launch about six jet skis at a time and bring it back in at night. He feels there is a good demand for this product in the area. Mr. Advay said they were looking to take the steel boat ramp out, put a nice concrete one in its place, and fix up the parking area.

Fairport Harbor Village

The Lake County Planning Commission staff has been working with Fairport Harbor for three months now on plans to rezone the riverfront from industrial to mixed-use entertainment and commercial. Mr. Radachy, Senior Planner, is working on draft waterfront ordinances with them right now, which is a huge step in the right direction for improving their shoreline. These will take out all industrial uses and incorporate hotels, convention centers, restaurants, light retail, and high density residential in order to maximize the footprint from the mouth to the turning basin. This includes all of Osborne's and some of the Village's property on the east side of Water Street. In preparation of when this rezoning occurs and if the landowners are willing to sell, John Loftus of the County Port Authority is attempting to line up a queue of financial stakeholders, a willing buyer or a riverfront development partner. The riverfront has to be public, with a river walk wide enough for emergency vehicles, and a transient boat dock. It appears the Village would be on board.

Fairport Dredging

Mr. Boyd said the Grand River will be dredged the summer of 2011. According to the public notice released by the Corps, 100,000 yards will be placed on the nearshore and 150,000 will be placed offshore. The significance to this is that there was a 98,000 cubic yards dredge that occurred last year and dumped in the nearshore near the landfill, which may be in play with what is happening in North Perry Village. He will be sharing this information with the Corps if they can ever garner an audience.

Mr. Boyd asked the two young ladies present from NCDL if and how the Lake played into the plans of their high school friends and social circles. They felt the Lake did play into their plans, especially in the summer as a recreation, swimming beach. Mr. Cain stated that not much consideration seems to be given from those going to college to return to the Cleveland area. There is a lot more needed to make the Lake County shore a destination. We need a major draw at the shore. Mr. Boyd envisions a water park near Grand River Village on Rt. 44 north that could be a draw similar to Kalihari in Sandusky.

Lake Metroparks

Mr. Urbanski reported that Lake Metroparks acquired the old Knez property in Perry Township and is currently doing master planning. They have a consultant out of Columbus who has done a pretty good site analysis. They are now working into the phase where they are blocking out areas for different types of uses. The site is located near the corner of Blackmore and Clark.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 23, 2011. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Gilmer moved to adjourn the December 1, 2010 meeting at 7:05p.m. Mr. Webster seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".