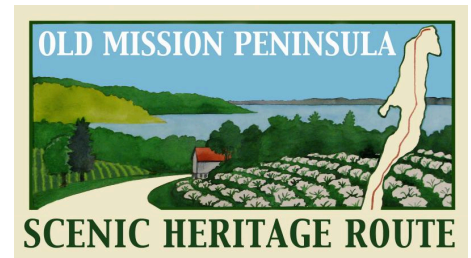


M-37 OLD MISSION BYWAY

Committee Meeting – **DRAFT MINUTES**

February 19th, 2025 at 3:00 PM



In-person Attendees

Alan Leman, Grand Traverse County Road Commission Board
Becky Chown, Peninsula Township
Ben DuBois, MDOT
Cassidy Robarts, Networks Northwest
Clayton Sigmann, MDOT
Donna Hornberger, Peninsula Township Planning Commission
Elena Draitsas, Peninsula Township
Ginger Schultz, Mission Point Lighthouse
Maura Sanders, Peninsula Township
Nancy Heller, Resident
RJ Prescott, Resident
TJ Andrews, Grand Traverse County

Online Attendees

Dan Wagner, MDOT
Krista Phillips, MDOT
Michelle Zehell, Resident
Scott Phillips, Resident
Susie Shipman, Peninsula Township Planning Commission
Tom Dalluge, Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society

1. Call to Order

Clayton Sigmann called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

2. Additions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

Motion by Becky Chown to approve the agenda as presented, second by Maura Sanders. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.



3. Approval of Previous Minutes - None

4. Chair Opening Remarks

Clayton thanked attendees for coming to the meeting, noting it is the first meeting of the Committee in 5 years.

5. Public Comment

RJ Prescott asked whether there is already an Old Mission Scenic/Heritage Route and what happened to it if the last meeting was over five years ago. Clayton explained that the Byway designation on M-37 still exists; committee activity slowed and effectively stopped around COVID, but the designation was never removed.

Maura Sanders asked if the Byway would be integrated into regional and local transportation and recreation plans. Clayton responded that it could be, and that the Corridor Management Plan is typically shared with local jurisdictions and used to guide how the Byway is reflected in those plans, though the exact approach depends on each community's preferences.

6. Committee Member Comments/Updates

- a. Dan Wagner reported that MDOT is preparing for a busy construction season. The project most likely to affect the local community is the Three Mile Road and US-31 reconstruction project, with a pre-construction meeting just held and work expected to start in early spring and be completed by the July 4 weekend. He also noted that, specific to the M-37 corridor, MDOT has a curve-warning signage project planned for this summer; the contract has been awarded, and construction is expected to begin in the spring and be finished by early summer.

7. Partner Updates

- a. Clayton Sigmann gave an overview of the Pure Michigan Byways program and how it applies to M-37/Old Mission. He briefly reviewed the shift from the former Heritage Route program to the current Pure Michigan branding, explained that byways are designated for their scenic, historic, recreational, and related intrinsic qualities, and described the shared management roles of MDOT, Networks Northwest, and the local Byway committee. He emphasized that the updated Corridor Management Plan will guide preservation, promotion, and protection activities along the corridor and support future funding applications. Clayton also noted that grant opportunities exist through federal Byway funds, MDOT transportation alternatives, and local foundations, and he highlighted Old Mission's Purchase of Development Rights program as a strong example of preservation work that supports the Byway's goals.

8. Old Business - None.

9. New Business

Members raised the need to establish committee leadership and plan for future meetings. The group



agreed to move forward with selecting officers. Nominations were opened, and Maura Sanders was nominated for Chair and accepted, and Ginger Schultz was nominated for Co-Chair and accepted. With only one nominee for each role, the committee moved to forgo a formal ballot.

Motion by Donna Hornberger to elect Maura Sanders as Chair and Ginger Schulta as Co-Chair, second by Becky Chown. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

The group briefly discussed meeting frequency and timing, referencing the prior practice of meeting about three times per year, and agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled for May or early June so that committee input can be included before Networks Northwest submits the FY27 work plan to MDOT (due July 1).

10. Public Comment

- a. Becky requested that the presentation slides be shared after the meeting. Clayton noted that he would send it to Cassidy for distribution.
- b. There was additional discussion that the committee should formally revisit and vote on the Byway's name at a future meeting, and that the new Chair and Co-Chair would coordinate on setting the next meeting date and reaching out to attendees.

11. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM. The next meeting is TBD.

This document was drafted in part using an AI-assisted transcription and note-taking tool. Human review was conducted to ensure accuracy.

