

Resilient Beaver Island Meeting Notes

Joint Planning Commission Meeting 9/13/2016

Feedback on previous sessions and communications strategies:

- Meetings should be short, with short presentations
- Input from the meetings should inform the public process
- Drawback is that seasonal population is not on the online, will need to use online interface as much as possible
- Need to add the Beaver Beacon to the press list
- Try talking to Jennifer Clyde- MDNR Wildlife Biologist (she has 150 contacts)
- Coffee shop is a good way to reach people- Buddy's, gas station, Delwhinnie's
- Don't try to make everybody happy!

Data Discussion:

- Look at real estate sales through the County assessor
- How many places are for sale right now?
- Meet with realtors
- Cost of living on the island is high- strategies for reducing this burden?
- Wallstreet today had an article about the amazon.com economy in rural economies, definitely has an impact today.
- Compare aging population- Charlevoix vs beaver island
- Broadband map- mobile service is confusing, shows areas with no cell service, just internet
- Look at the recreation plan surveys
- Post office will have data on vacancies
- How long are properties on the market and how far must prices come down before they sell? County has this info.
- Assessed values are going down- this impacts taxes.
- What about transient populations? Can get data from the airlines and boat company.
- Public lands- there are many types, publically accessible areas need to be better communicated
 - o Access to inland lakes and the big lake
 - o Marines and Harbor, St. James only, access to lake
- Peaine has some ag, larger lots, more potential for PUDs, gravel pits, hunting and fishing, junk yards
- Percentage of year-round residents in each township
- Reduction in snowmobile use, more quads and side by sides
- # of buildable lakefront properties
- Age of home ownership
- Tribes- Grand Traverse and Little Traverse are going to do Lida
 - o Also have data on the eagles
- DNR has forest data and biodiversity studies
- CMU will have water quality data

Vulnerability Assessment discussion:

- Can we add economic indicators and real estate data?
- Bonner's Landing Bay- difficult 911 access in dune areas
- Cost of investment, transportation cost, comparative added cost from the mainland
- Electricity, propane, wood, no natural gas
- Air quality problems from wood smoke but mostly dirt roads
- Currently use calcium carbonite on roads to reduce dust
- Aging volunteer fire fighters, fewer young people available to join
- Correlation between weather and tourism- more summer tourists, could compare ridership in cold vs warm summer months
- Alternative routes in case of fire?

Recreation Ideas

- Maintained inland trails clearly marked, most are just road signs right now
- Market winter activities
- Concerns about events- liability, noise, erosion
- Trails need to be integrated into Town
- Signage
- Bike accessibility on public transit
- Too dusty really to bike- what have other twps done with this issue?
- Marketing- before june we are not buggy! Plenty of winter activities like cross country skiing.
- Could host conferences and events in the shoulder seasons. What facilities- CMU?

Who else should we talk to?

- Fire Department
- EMS
- Disaster Planning
- Matt Fogg (sp?) towing
- Road commission- Pat Harmon, also will know about flooding
- Twp Boards: STJ 1st Wednesday, Peaine 2nd Wednesday, should update after the elections when we are about halfway done