

Minutes for ROAR/Kensington Loop Special Meeting

February 8th, 2024

6:30 pm, Holmes City Township Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Schuneman at 6:30 pm on 2/8/2024. Present at the meeting were Gary Schuneman, Darin Weisel, Joe Callahan, Christopher Wanner, and multiple members of the community. A sign-in sheet was presented and a total of 29 individuals signed it. A detailed agenda was presented to the group but was only loosely followed.

Background--

Gary S opened with a discussion of a general background of the proposed Kensington Loop ATV/UTV trail and the involvement of the group ROAR and Douglas County. A contract with the county to ok their application for a grant from the state designated towards repairs of any damage to township roads to be split with Solem Lake township. This was approved last February, signed and the board is awaiting further information and community input for consideration of re-approval. Minutes from regular Holmes city board meeting from 9/26/2022 detail the interactions and approval.

Concerns regarding the trail were brought up at the regular December 2023 board meeting by approximately 5 individuals, all opposed to the trail. Approximately 30 individuals attended the January 29th, 2024 regular board meeting all seemingly opposed to the trail and the re-approval of grant application. The minutes to these meetings are referenced here. The board decided to table the issue until a special meeting could be held today. This was posted in the usual manner.

Discussion—

Chris was asked to review discussions he had with the MAT lawyer regarding the trail and the boards abilities to regulate their roads. The board does indeed have the power to pass an ordinance outlawing atvs that do not supercede state laws. The process to implement this was reviewed and the difficulties, including enforcement of the ordinance are not insurmountable but the board expressed their opposition to this approach. A permit process was reviewed but has the same difficulties and was not considered a viable option by the board.

There was universal opposition to this trail using township roads for many reasons delineated in previous minutes. One individual was neutral to the project and no person supported the project. The board reviewed that the contract was to ok the county to apply for a grant for repair monies but the general consensus was that was not enough to offset the problems already presented by the trail.

A request to remove all signage on township roads was reviewed as well as a wish to be removed from the state website. Consensus was to have the board consider non-renewal of the resolution to approve the county's application for grant money.

Action—

After consideration of all community input, Darin Weisel moved to not renew the Resolution to approve the Kensington Loop/ROAR atv/utv trail use of township roads, to request removal of all signage along township roads, and to report to Douglas County and all associated entities the decision of the Holmes City Township Board. Joe Callahan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Joe C moved for adjournment, MCU, meeting adjourned 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman, Gary Schuneman

Clerk/Treasurer, Christopher Wanner