

# Appendix D

<u>Brainstorming Session: Parks - 2/5/2008</u>	D-1
<u>Brainstorming Session: Waterfront - 2/19/2008</u>	D-2
<u>Brainstorming Session: Streetscape - 3/4/2008</u>	D-3
<u>Streetscape Summary:- Sept. 2009</u>	D-4
<u>Brainstorming Summary – 2009</u>	D-5
<u>Summary Document: Master Plan Goals &amp; Objectives and Survey, Summer 2009</u>	D-6
<u>Benzie County Recreation and Cultural Master Plan 2009-2014 (excerpts)</u>	D-7

# Beulah Brainstorming Meeting-Parks

Beulah Brainstorming: Parks

2/5/08

Facilitators: Patty Cantrell, Phil Downs, Vicki Carpenter

Present:

Patty welcomed folks and gave the overview of the evening's work.

Comments and ideas for parks

- Nothing distinguishes Parks (no parking, landscaping, dressed up, look like vacant lots, need to be dressed up, directions)
- Places for people to sit (Trapp area, is there fishing?)
- Signage (condition of it, lack of it, more negative/don't do this, should be positive and inviting signage)
- General maintenance, grass cutting
- How do people know where are public and or private areas
- 'library' park should be developed
- benches, tables, more permanent
- better definition of bike area, use arrows
- comprehensive look at earlier plans and their status (money spent and not known what became of it...)
- status of plans that were drafted for central park, recently done hasn't been seen
- old plans had budget set aside but not evident in new budget (ex; boat ramp, Diane Elliott shared that she has info about DNR regs and costs, she will share)
- smaller parks could get service clubs to 'own' them and upgrade them (adopt a park, wish list)
- tennis courts-keep them clean
- bike racks at different parks
- info about location of other parks, esp at Northway (tennis, playground)
- Fair Park; resident sees less use since trees have been cut (rx: plant trees to have a shady beach)
- Permanent site of a map to help folks locate parks (perhaps at Trailhead bldg)
- Information/map about village

What should be done by this summer?

- Drinking fountain in the park
- Hours posted on the bathroom buildings (beach house and trailhead bldg)
- Trailhead building: is there a plan about publication distribution, building is empty, who is responsible to keep it attractive (Jim B responded that it's open to anyone to put publications in, some episodes of vandalism in the past, hours vary by season)
- Irrigation in park to keep flowers/garden watered
- Trash bins emptied more often
- Trailhead building is wonderful but seems underutilized
- Service groups or volunteers staff the trailhead building, esp at peak times

## Beulah Brainstorming Meeting-Parks

- Beulah Boosters is evolving as a volunteer group, to support/grow Beulah
- Contact other groups put on activities in the parks (car shows, etc, like the library has been doing with new activities)
- CLCBA has many activities year 'round (fireworks, winter fest, 4<sup>th</sup> July, fall festival, etc,) how to keep that going and increase
- Volunteers, MSU Master Gardeners to help with planters on street/parks
- Trapp Park could be better utilized (update on the on the sludge/dredge, quality of water, should there be a warning signs about sludge/keep out/fencing)
- Aspects of the draft plan for central park, why hasn't it been followed up on more (an overlay of the old and proposed changes would be helpful for people to see and understand the changes)
- Beach sand needs to be brought in where creek comes in (Diane shared info/annual need, waterfront need as well as park, she has info for Patty)
- Paint the blue trash cans with Crystal Lake scenes as a youth activity

### Long Term:

- master plan is needed as well as a short term(need to have a plan, traffic flow, need to make this a more attractive place, parking)
- parking downtown and throughout (other than parallel parking, whose rules apply: village, county, state)
- boat trailers take up lots of parking spaces, find alternatives
- MSU Master Gardener program may be resource for all the parks to do a master planting plan, irrigation is essential
- Plant It Wild does maintain their 3 areas (both entrances and central park)
- Lighting in the park (Frankfort, Mesick, Kingsley as an example) more in parks, lower the lights, more attractive
- Environmental issues/concerns need to be kept in forefront (such as watering)
- Draft plan for the Central Park was displayed and shared by Patty (w/wo the tennis courts, trees remain, designer could be contacted for follow-up if the Council should decide as part of priority)
- Attendance at Council meeting is encouraged, input helps with planning
- Jim Baltazar shared the evolution of the Trailhead Building
- Chamber/Visitor Bureau staff shared that the new number one question is 'how do I get to the bike trail' rather than how to find Gwen Frostic's, and efforts to make Benzie a destination and this effort helps move this forward
- Take advantage of the influx of bike riders with upgrades in the parks (maps, signage, trash)
- Dog walk rule/designated areas (water, clean up bag s, people friendly signage)
- Can the trail be made x-country skier friendly (village area has snow put on it and east of town has snow mobilers)
- Parking plan
- Electrical needs in central park, additional lighting (everyone likes the new lights)

# Beulah Brainstorming Meeting-Parks

- Entrance areas to village, considered as streetscape

The group categorized the above ideas into three main objectives

- Make things look nice
- Signage
- New ideas/activities

Feedback about tonight:

- Positive ideas generated
- Need to think about big things more, like Central Park for example, that could be a part of a master plan that could be chipped away at. Cost is a reality and ways to help fund, grants, etc. Such as flow Central Park into the beach area with walkway (boardwalk perhaps)
- Efforts several years ago, a big plan, was shot down by village council and residents. History shows the council is reluctant to sink money into big things. Many ideas /do-able items came out now, move on those now and still work on the big things as well, but getting things done now will keep people vested.
- Grant applications will need evidence of what has been done (a grant writer has volunteered). Appreciated the support of the Village and crew with different CLCBA events, everyone working together.
- Grass roots efforts can be best, council may be stuck by thinking about \$\$/costs.
- Thanks for the efforts and past due, we need to start small.
- Several projects on short term are very do-able, grants available for planning and for long term projects. (matching grants too)
- Happy with the meeting
- Looking forward to the next two meetings as well, there are many tied in aspects for all 3 areas
- Jim B shared that there is a Master Plan, 1997 and it needs to be updated
- We have amazing things already in Beulah, considering the size and we can do more.
- Thanks for hosting the meeting, important to include the Master Plan and lots of efforts have been made and move forward.
- Many short term are do-able, the long term will need attention. Awareness of resistance from residents from earlier efforts. This process for short term is good, more focused efforts (residents, businesses, etc) for long term movement. Earlier efforts may have been less successful due to not getting early by-in from folks.
- DDA efforts, MSU project have gotten ideas out and many were completed
- Thanks for coming out, getting people engaged in the conversation is important and it needs to continue.

# Beulah Brainstorming Meeting – Waterfront 2-19-08

Brainstorm Committee: Patty Cantrell, Phil Downs, Vicki Carpenter, Pat Elliott

Patty welcomed folks, gave the overview of the evening's work and a brief review of the parks meeting (2/5/08). She reviewed the PowerPoint presentation and fielded questions on the waterfront and the trailer park. She clarified that the Village owns the waterfront and the spaces for docks is available only to property owners in Beulah and a wait list exists.

## Ideas/Comments on Waterfront:

- Is there a place for visitors to anchor boats so they can visit Beulah (there was a proposal years ago to put in a public dock but the Council didn't choose to do so)
- Without a public marina, loss of revenue for the Village
- Parking for vehicles and trailers (while parking, you can temporarily moor to the outside of the boat ramp)
- Resident offered his empty lot behind his lot (any ordinance to permit or prohibit?)
- Currently parking behind the Village offices is available, on Lake Street (watch the signage)
- Parking by the pump house off of Spring Valley is reserved for the trailer park residents to put their trailers
- Earlier estimates for ramp repair costs may not require all the allotted/budgeted funds
- Need trees along the road side of the beach, provide more shade
- Earlier plan showed some beachfront improvements, such as a boardwalk
- Can the current space allocation for docks be reviewed to open up more beach space, it appears that the beach area is not public but private
- Consider a different configuration to accommodate more boats with less space
- Review the space fees (\$275/each) and increase accordingly (compare with other places)
- Dock space is for property owners, impact on residents who already pay taxes if fees raised
- Should the Village buy docks and make the look more uniform and adjust the fees (Village would need to have space to store and provide put in and take out services)
- Earlier plan called for up to 3 larger T docks to accommodate rentals/hoists
- Group dock would open up the beach to more use
- The space with docks, even though it's public, has the appearance of private and not very inviting (reluctant to use beach where folks have docks)
- Who is the customer? (residents, businesses, what is the clear purpose?)
- With limited funds, selective use of funds to dress up the beach front to make it more appealing
- Where to put a boardwalk or trees? (entire beach area or just sections)
- Beachfront hasn't changed in many years
- Member of the Crystal Lake Watershed Organization shared:
  - DEQ has rules about # boats, what amount makes you a marina and need licensing
  - What is the zoning impact
  - Dr Stacy Daniels has studied Cold Creek and he has applied for a grant (salt impact from drain-off is a one concern)
  - Permanent water level gauge is being explored somewhere on the lake
  - System of washing off boat hulls before going into lake to try to keep invasive species out of Crystal Lake (where could this be done w/o impacting water quality)
- Environmental considerations throughout any decision making on waterfront
- Beach sand needs to be replenished along the whole beachfront

## Beulah Brainstorming Meeting – Waterfront 2-19-08

- Cold Creek enters into the lake and how it moves also impacts the 3 docks that are in that area, especially with the low water level and impacts boat launch/ramp
- Keep beach area clean (litter, tree debris, trash pick-up, etc)
- More trash cans, especially along the beach area
- Village has 'beach cleaner' equipment but it is done as time is available to Village crew, rx to be done more often/on a scheduled basis
- Volunteers can be used but limits/barriers may exist, signed waiver
- Charge to use the boat ramp (how to staff, auto pay, honor system, etc/Leland)
- Historically there was a 'box' to pay, didn't seem to work
- Eliminate the many signs, have a more inviting/positive system (less signs but get the info out)
- How to decide the priorities: accommodate residents with boat space/bring visitors to Beulah/get people here for businesses/how to get people here to use it all
- Empty buildings/businesses is unfortunate, impacts how people view the Village
- Have a specific area improved for the 'public beach' and the rest designated for residents
- Parking problems as folks stop and visit on Lake Street
- People may avoid the beach area because of lack of parking
- May want to invite Craig Seger, works for county, to look at street/parking needs
- When the new DNR boat launch opens, will there be an impact in Beulah (parking, wait list for dock space, etc.)?
- Added outside showers several years ago, add a drinking fountain, more trash cans and dumped more often, more benches
- Why were the trees on the beach removed years ago? (is there a reason we can't have trees out there?)
- A sidewalk exists near the half wall now, review that as a bench area or start of boardwalk
- More flowers (need watering)
- Look at grants to help fund these ideas (folks have skills and are willing to help write)
- Volunteers to do specific/discrete things on a scheduled basis (flowers, trash, wash off boats, etc.)
- Testing for e-coli, who does that now and who should be doing it (take samples to health dept)
- Beulah shuts down during the summer about 5 pm, with the exception of Hungry Tummy and Cold Creek (some nights at East Shore), who would be the group to look to help bring businesses to town (compared to Frankfort's downtown)
- Liquor license status, economic development needs exist
- Beach has a 10 pm posted curfew (recommended to keep and enforce)
- Life guard on beach/teach swimming lessons (GT Tribe helped with \$\$ years ago)
- Current T-dock use (update, fishing, safety, reuse as transient boat dock)
- Transient dock needs to be secure enough to tie boats off when the waves/winds pick up each day

Categorize: discussion to take the different ideas and see where they fall into like-categories

- Beach ( board walk, signage,. keep it clean, trees, add sand, drinking fountain, businesses close down)
- Boats (transient docks/day-public use, rent space, trailer parking, DNR issues, T dock, boat fees, dock configuration, who benefits)

## Beulah Brainstorming Meeting – Waterfront 2-19-08

- Environment (water levels, run off, invasive species, swimmers itch)
- Beulah as a destination (residents, visitors, all the above apply, what benefits which part of the Village)

Short term: (these items were identified as short term and perhaps more do-able w/o high costs or within current budget): trees, landscaping, boardwalk, beach sand, signage, benches, trash cans, drinking fountain, volunteers

Comments from the audience on the evening's work:

- good to hear the remarks (second meeting), thanks, it's stimulating to hear
- swimmer's itch hot line shared (this will be put into the next newsletter)
- resident offered a supply a bench
- sponsor a bench idea
- paint a bench idea
- good discussion, umbrella idea for shade on the beach is good but the wind in the afternoon isn't realistic/trees will be better for shade
- would like to see something happen, not a dead end like before
- new business owner (5 Corners) wants to be involved, thanks for the meeting to get input from residents and businesses
- grants in Frankfort for ramps/docks for fishing, donation list in Frankfort for items too
- let's use our resources to improve the area, make people proud of their work, good ideas
- wants to see these ideas work this time, not 'fail' like before
- keep the curfew (kids are crazy down there at night) good meeting
- good meeting, again
- here to support the village and make the village better for everyone, thanks to Al Brown for his ongoing support of Beulah (donated sand for the beach and dirt for the library)
- good ideas, short term items should be do'able
- 'diamond in the rough', good resource, encouraged that we'll make some progress
- proposal to Village and CLCBA association will be made to support the middle school art students to paint the blue trash cans later in May as a project (council member offered to deliver the cans to the school as he works there)
- encourage folks to attend the Village Council meetings
- go to the web site, give us feed back, thanks for coming

Beulah Brainstorming: Streetscape Meeting 3/4/08

Committee: Pat Elliott, Phil Downs, Vicki Carpenter, Patty Cantrell

Pat welcomed folks and gave the overview for the evening's work. He also shared budget information and current plans on sidewalk/curb plans and sewer project impacts. Public parking, other than the streets, is found behind the library and at the trailhead building.

Comments and Ideas for Streets:

- Trees for downtown
- Eliminate the overhead wires downtown
- Planning ahead for underground wiring as we redo sidewalks
- Update the benches downtown
- Tie the soon to be painted trash cans along with the benches with a theme
- When the village gets sidewalks done, could the contractor be asked if he would offer better rates if residents are interested in new sidewalks as well
- Upcoming sidewalk repairs were shared
- Street lighting be changed into something more aesthetically pleasing
- Safety issues regarding crosswalks (Are cars required to stop when pedestrians are in the crosswalks? Cars stop in TC on Front St., however the crosswalks in TC are marked.)
- Currently the village has covered all sidewalk costs although the ordinances state the property owners are responsible. This would open up more funds for the village
- Recycling area is hodgepodge, can it be redesigned? (library shared a design for the parking lots with the village)
- Is there another place to store sand/salt which would open up more space
- Need to have better parking for boat trailers and for business owners/employees
- Better signage for retail, especially for those off the main street (some preliminary work on a 'map' type document is in discussion)
- Additional signage for parks is needed, using the trailhead building
- Signage on the street identifying who and what

- Signage limits when you're out of the downtown area, parking is limited and could there be some reserved parking for specific businesses. Current parking is often taken up by boat trailers, especially on weekends
- Earlier proposals made suggestions of one way streets which would offer more angle parking spots
- Limited parking spaces downtown may be keeping businesses away as well as customers
- Signs that identify where you are and what's where (signs like those in malls that indicate what directions you need to find your destination)
- Signs that indicate at the entrance to the village (Benzie Blvd and Spring Valley) about the Trailhead bldg and even the bike trail
- New banners to replace or alternate with the US and MI flags
- New banner company makes banners that advertise specific events (short term items and costs back to the event sponsor, could return revenue to the village, he shared an example) or promote the village or themes, etc (Crystal Mt has done this as well as Interlochen)
- Any new light poles can be purchased with the hardware in place for flags, banners, etc.
- Sponsor a banner by businesses and events
- Lake Street could have a boardwalk on the beachside, playground to launch area (this could keep people from having to walk in the street or congregate)
- Should it be considered to widen the current sidewalk and add vegetation on the beach side, may not be enough room to do both
- With the prevailing winds at the current ramp, could Fair Park be arranged with boat docking
- Boardwalk should take as little beach as possible, have it up to the curb/pavement
- Develop the lake frontage as a valuable asset (spend money there rather than on street lights as that is what draws people here)
- Extend the current sidewalk area (from the playground area, which already has benches on it) to the ramp. This keeps the kids slowed down and the beach a bit more separated from the street.
- Grant dollars may be available to do many of these upgrades and would need to be explored. Members of the community have grant writing experience and have offered their skills.
- Could the recycling area be relocated to another area and open the parking up (over by Brookside?)

- Upgrades on downtown building facades, are any ordinances in place to address this, can there be resources discovered to encourage property owners to clean it up.
- Some unfinished buildings are in litigation.
- It was felt that once folks see upgrades happening, they may be more motivated
- Flower boxes, trees, perhaps to be bigger for impact/flowers maintained, should shrubs/bushes be considered, barreled trees on the street and then moved to other city areas for transplanted, putting flowers along curbside (such as Onekema, Charlevoix) and ways to water/maintain

Categorize the ideas:

Accessories: signage, flowers, benches, banners, maps, vegetation restoration, trees

Sidewalks: underground wiring, resident upgrades/village prices, crosswalks,

Lighting: sponsor poles, look to replace poles with more options for brackets/lights, etc.

Parking: trailers, signs to locate, traffic flow, better/more, move recycle bins/increase space,

Boardwalk: along current street/curb, extend current sidewalk from playground to ramp

Fair Park/Boat Dock (move to waterfront info), buoys that transient boaters can clip onto

Some activities, such as accessories ideas , may be short term while most of the others would long term due to money or time to research.

Keep in touch on the website: [villageofbeulah.org](http://villageofbeulah.org) then click on brainstorm You can put comments on the website.

Closing thoughts:

- A letter to the editor to share the status of our meetings and of our efforts
- People want to help the Beulah Brainstorming committee, contact any of the members or call the village office and leave a message.
- Encourage folks to attend the village meetings
- Engage CLCBA in this process

## Beulah Brainstorming Notes: April 29, June 24 and August 26, 2009

Each meeting started with a review of completed work from last year (08) and outstanding work remaining, primarily waterfront at Fair Park which is scheduled to be completed this spring (09). An overview of the work on the Master Plan, including the goals/objectives and the survey was covered as well.

April 29, 2009

General discussion fell to the following topics:

- Cold Creek 'renovation' as it enters Crystal Lake (prevent beach erosion and creek flow from disturbing/impacting boat launch)
- Talk to Tribe regarding grant dollars (there may be changes with the criteria to distribute \$\$)
- Get quotes on boardwalk, Cold Creek project and design
- Bring in another restaurant
- Transient boat dock/day dock to encourage patronage of stores/restaurants
- Boat mooring at Fair Park
- Signage to indicate that the public beach extends to the end of Lake Street
- More boat docks for residents (increase revenue/reduce wait list)
- Swim/float platform
- Paint crosswalks
- Paint parking lines in Village (street and parking lot)
- Signage on beach that indicates no dogs in a more friendly/fun way
- Positive remarks about marketing the Trailer Park
- Do any signs say "Welcome!"
- Consider a different angle on the new parking that wouldn't have vehicles jut out so much onto Benzie Blvd.
- Stagger the implementation of a reconfigured docking design??

June 23, 2009

Broad discussion which covered the following:

- Update on Fair Park with support to do a day mooring buoy with signage be tried
- Transient day dock nearer downtown is supported
- Trailer park is looking at less than 3 mos. options in order to fill vacancies
- Angled parking should consider vehicle length or oversize vehicle limits and have sheriff post a note on windshields for awareness
- Active efforts to recruit businesses to Beulah, discussed the variety and beauty of Sutton's Bay
- Lake St. parking for cars near the dead end, options
- No specific area for people to 'beach' canoes or kayaks to come to town
- Farmer's Market in Beulah should be explored
- Make the crosswalk so cars stop when people are in the crosswalk
- Worried about Brian and Jim when they climbed the water tower

August 28, 2009

Discussion to gather additional input on strengths and weaknesses:

Strengths:

- Increased parking is good
- Five Corners
- Rails to Trails
- Fishing tournaments

- Phoenix and Library offer wireless Internet (wifi)
- Library
- Crystal Lake
- Beach front, we need all of it
- Charm of the Village
- Flowers look better than last year
- People who live here!
- Beulah newsletter

Weaknesses:

- No boat wash
- Need day docking
- Boat staging
- Not getting DNR money
- No specific parking for trailers
- Revise street/one way
- High end restaurants
- Lake Street parking/trailers need to be elsewhere
- Need boardwalk/lake access
- Signage-can miss Beulah
- Need to make Village more attractive
- Cold Creek wetland
- Beach accessible (land and water)
- No bike lane on Lake St.
- Improve trailer park to encourage/support higher rates (high quality)
- Pave the trail at lake
- Vacant buildings
- Un-mowed lawns downtown
- Do flowers downtown
- Great ideas-nothing happens
- Signage at each end of Village with garden
- Signs to Beulah on right side of road heading north
- Capacity to follow through on projects (city manager concept)
- Improve partnership with Benzonia (staff/water certification/equipment, etc.)
- Need to rehab buildings
- Seasonal issues-snowmobiles
- Technology support/phones Internet
- Need to solicit small businesses
- Boat moorings needed
- Dead end Lake St. parking
- Dockage availability
- Canoe/kayak parking
- Large vehicles stick out in road
- Getting people in the Village in evening
- Signage for parks (where and what's there)
- Better promotion of events

Gary Pallin, Patty Cantrell, Phil Downs and Vicki Carpenter were in attendance at all 3 meetings.

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

Whenever possible and legible, remarks are verbatim of what was submitted, spelling corrected and punctuation added for clarity.

1. Long range planning is necessary to manage growth and development and to protect our natural environment.

67/75 agree

1/1 disagree

0 uncertain

- planning is ok, enforcement is key
- whatever works

2. Which types of economic opportunities do you think should be added or expanded in the Village?

5/5 planned office park

8/9 light industry

42/48 festivals/performances

27/30 cottage industry

47/54 retail/commercial

0 heavy industry

7/8 shopping centers

54/59 tourism

other (list)

- better signage-directing tourists into downtown Beulah
- improve parks and facilities
- professional offices
- destination type restaurant
- fine dining
- other types of businesses aren't appropriate for village per space available and residences
- baseball
- re: light industry-such as the no-longer functioning Diack\Thorn Smith on Narrow Gauge Rd. years ago, Setwell made the best pant\skirt hanger ever
- art studio-pottery, painting, textiles
- good fine dining, such as Coho. The Hungry Tummy and Cold Creek are good family
- community dock and public marina so lake people can visit Beulah by boat to shop and have lunch or dinner
- clothing store, dollar store, general store
- grocery
- performances are too noisy
- movie theatre
- two nice restaurants east side of town on the beach
- active enhancements, ie: bikes and boats
- infrastructure will limit all growth, water, sewer, electric until this is updated to today's standard.
- we are very limited
- no shopping centers
- there needs to be a little give and take to encourage new retail. For example, there are places that we visit where most of the "Offices" are encouraged to be above and below the spaces specifically for retail. This is difficult for offices due to the need for handicapped accessibility in older buildings. But an office park area might free up spaces for a retail block. At the same time there has to be some thought about what retail could really meet needs and be suggested to business & encouraged to occupy any empty spaces.

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- whatever works. Taxes are already excessive, learn to live within your budget.
- public boat dock for tie up during day, for shopping, lunch, etc.
- home based business with internet-incentives for young to renovate and use existing buildings
- barter and trade friend

### 3. Streets should be improved to reduce safety problems, manage vehicular traffic and control parking.

59/65 agree

11/12 disagree

13/13 uncertain

- traffic calming, slow down traffic on Spring Valley St.
- streets seem ok
- whatever works
- they're much better since sewer upgrade was completed
- some corners aren't marked. Surface of streets is poor.
- good now, however

### 4. Adequate housing is available to meet the current needs of the residents (seasonal and permanent).

40/45 agree

12/13 disagree

31/32 uncertain

What type(s) of housing opportunities should be available (circle all that apply).

33/37 single family homes

16/19 apartments

47/51 upgrade existing housing

24/25 elderly housing

0 mobile homes

26/29 low cost/affordable housing

- remove
- no mobile homes

2/2 new subdivisions

21/22 upscale housing/condos

- no room available
- whatever works
- need affordable family year-round housing
- no mobile homes
- senior apartments
- moderate to luxury upscale housing/condos

### 5. Efforts should be made to preserve the historic character of much of the Village including the protection of areas and buildings of unique architectural or historic significance.

74/81 agree

3/3 disagree

6/6 uncertain

- within reason/growth more important
- what buildings of historic significance?
- whatever works
- provided buildings are in good condition and financially feasible
- unfortunate that the Northway was not preserved

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

6. Wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, unique natural areas and significant wildlife habitats should be conserved and protected.

78/83 agree

2/4 disagree

5/5 uncertain

- within reason, growth most important
- Beulah is only a small town. Taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- as much as possible and practical
- within reason

7. Commercial development along the US-31 corridor should be increased.

30/33 agree

32/35 disagree

20/20 uncertain

- and clean up\enforce codes\zoning
- bad for downtown Beulah
- open and improve what exists, closed businesses
- not much room and during busy times a strategic placement of a stop light would be helpful now
- whatever works.

8. What businesses would you like to see in the downtown/Benzie Blvd. area:

18/21 convenience

32/34 professional

62/69 retail

59/66 food and beverage

20/22 service

other (list)

- clothing and grocery stores
- clothing store, dollar store
- not live music at Brookside
- restaurants (Beulah badly needs quality eats in the downtown)
- upscale food and beverage
- hardware/grocery
- art centers
- drug store
- whatever works. Taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- give us one good restaurant
- drugstore, hardware
- someplace to go food shopping
- maintain post office in current location, as essential for business district
- restaurants, not bars
- grocery store, hardware store, drug store/dime store type merchandise
- limited groceries
- need good restaurant for dinner
- city run boat rental

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

9. In your opinion, what are major problems with downtown Beulah? (circle all that apply)

### A: Physical appearance

52/56 shabby buildings

6/7 unpleasant surroundings

- especially the back of buildings that face alley
- bowling alley
- such as L'Chiaym and East Shore, alley and front are unsightly and unclean
- a couple
- residential behind Village office and handicap parking
- need to be more like Frankfort
- several buildings have been significantly improved, Five Corners is an important plus as it's the first impression of Beulah from the south

11/13 poor structural conditions

62/69 vacant buildings

- A couple

16/20 inadequate street lighting

16/18 sidewalk conditions

- getting better

13/14 empty lot maintenance

9/10 poor use of signs

other (list)

- Beulah is a unique and beautiful village, but what you going to do about winter? How do you increase traffic and bring in more taxes to do all the structural improvements?
- Beulah looks nice
- all of the above but most of all, lack of agreement to move forward
- whatever works. Taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- too many signs which are scattered everywhere
- needs shops and restaurants and coffee shops, etc
- low rent housing right in the middle of downtown-the white house will the dilapidated little house right behind it.
- historic street lights, and facades on buildings
- directions at stop signs on US 31, (north-south) to Beulah business district and main st.
- downtown with several exceptions has declined substantially over the past 50 years, which runs counter to most of northwest Michigan
- parking...angled parking is not good for downtown
- p use of lake front!!
- let's give Mike and Steve a weekly bath and shave
- tear down the bowling alley building to improve ease of developer to put up a better building, restaurant or micro brewery
- low rent housing right in the middle of downtown, the white house with the dilapidated little house behind it
- restaurants, cultural events
- improper type of street lighting, aesthetically unpleasing, not in keeping with Beulah's village image-quaint and small town
- pedestrian crossing dangerous-cars don't stop, need traffic light at times as US 31/Benzie Blvd.
- we need streetscaping which includes new lighting and vegetation

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- homeless/bums
- visual inconsistencies
- need ornamental lights and small trees
- ugly lighting
- those buildings that have been upgraded are a good positive!

### B. Traffic and Parking

12/12 congested streets

29/29 inadequate car parking

- the new diagonal parking causes trucks especially, to stick out too far (a safety problem)

•

29/30 inadequate RV or boat trailer parking

- should not be by the biggest asset-the beautiful waterfront-maybe forbid only in July and August when fishing not too good
- especially boat trailer parking along beach property
- overnight parking for tourists
- poorly managed
- better use of municipal lot

other (list)

- angle parking not liked
- whatever works. Taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- angle parking should be angled more so cars don't block the roadway
- congestion in summer is part of the ambience
- Kinney's – tear down and make municipal parking lot
- Angled parking narrows street and impedes visibility-still dangerous
- get parking off waterfront, London does not have parking lots along the Thames
- slow the traffic down!
- traffic circle and stop signs on Spring Valley and Benzie Blvd. (base of hill)
- signs to “convenient parking” just off main st, at library and city space
- create marina and replace ugly trailer park-hurts city-unsightly-poor use of Village owned lakefront
- boat launch
- angled parking is bad!! traffic hazard
- that will be great when we have parking problems
- I would encourage one-way traffic at public beach area on Lake St.
- the change in parking makes it more difficult to drive down the middle of the street safely
- store owners parking in front of other store's entrances
- hard to see into street when angled parking spots are full
- parking is available by library but not used adequately
- angled parking close to corners obstructs view of drivers and pedestrians
- need dock for boat-short visit, dinner, etc.
- parking should be cars of visitors/customers, not overflow for residents-no RV\trailers except visitors using temporarily
- inadequate parking along beach frontage
- get the boat trailers off the street
- angled parking is hazardous

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- speed down/up Spring Valley St., launch ramp needs to be maintained
- signage to indicate parking availability (need)
- slanted parking, although effective, can be troublesome
- the angled parking is awkward at times but really helps, especially with the end lines to limit the long vehicles

### C. Waterfront

19/22 pedestrian flow

14/14handicap accessible

- possibly

other (list)

- maintain what is there
- storm sewer drainage into the lake is not attractive. Possibly direct into Cold Creek retention pond.
- ok as is
- Beulah looks good as is
- entire beach area seems to always look littered and dirty, with leaves
- walkway and bike path-better landscaping (natural) something to control erosion and run-off, etc.
- waterfront has already been improved, more signs at beach to city parking could help
- ok as is
- village does not use its greatest asset, its beachfront, suggest hire land use expert
- get rid of geese and their droppings
- a well developed walkway should replace trailer parking-it is space wasted, a safety problem and ugly
- needs better maintenance of amenities and parks\beaches
- add sidewalk along beach side of Lake St.
- need a shoreline walkway
- traffic on Lake St. is dangerous
- boat trailer parking taking up valuable access, visibility for stops
- can get quite busy, marking walkways\bike paths may be helpful
- can the Village facilitate paving of the rail trail to Molineaux? I believe may cyclists choose to do their business in Frankfort and not come into Beulah
- erosion of blacktop edges, parking area along leased dock shoreline
- need more resident docks
- public beach is blocked by private docks\boats\ and trailer park hoists
- need transient docking
- install more stand, remove grass-it's a beach!
- clean up Beulah Beach
- lack of enforcement of beach ordinances
- too many ducks, parasites
- need a fishing or swim dock
- user friendly waterfront. Revisit streetscape-waterfront walk
- deal with swimmer's itch
- you junk up Beulah's greatest asset with trailer parking-get trailers away from beach
- need boardwalk
- too much clutter of waterfront

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- bathroom facilities/showers
- people friendly
- swimmer's itch
- dogs on public beach, pollution (excrement, trash) porta-potties need to be emptied more often
- appearance (shabby) need more sunset amenities
- visitors dock to park a few hours, another launch on the lake
- no place to walk or linger, pedestrian opportunity, visual cleanliness?
- handicapped accessible at least sometimes
- whatever works. Taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- lack of enforcement of beach ordinances

10. Public access to Crystal Lake (in the Village) should be improved.

45/48 agree

29/31 disagree

7/8 uncertain

- clean up creek area, sidewalks, more accessibility needed
- could some kind of break wall be put in to help boaters get in/out on high wind days?
- the boat ramp needs improvement
- walking access-yes
- whatever works.
- for people, not vehicles
- somehow to make one area nicer for swimming
- make access for people improved but not boats, watercraft or RVs
- new DNR launch should be supported and close ours

11. Utilities and services should be expanded for new developments.

35/40 agree

20/20 disagree

25/28 uncertain

- only if paid for by developer
- how about a cell phone tower on the water tower
- within walk-able Beulah
- if old services are disappearing
- downtown only
- whatever works.

12. The quaint, small town character should be preserved.

78/84 agree

4/5 disagree

4/4uncertain

- needs more business
- to a point
- within reason with growth as a goal
- have to allow for some growth
- this is your future
- time to grow
- whatever works

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

13. There is a need for expanded recreational opportunities in the Village.

46/49 agree

19/22 disagree

18/19 uncertain

- maintain what is here already before adding more
- ok as is
- such as??
- whatever works.
- return public beach dock-hold summer activities there for children-get docks and boats on Village beach off and into a licensed and regulated marina to improve lakefront and reduce liability of operating an unlicensed\unregulated boat marina
- what exists needs to be improved
- Perhaps a bicycle event with different categories from family to the serious bicyclists could be planned. It might be similar to the team marathon, but just around the lake for some categories. In general: my husband and I use the trail to Frankfort and back a lot. I have taken to driving & parking at the outlet to ride due to the condition of the trail between Beulah and the outlet. There must be a different compound that could be used that will not wash away, get potholes, and keep sand buildup that would keep the trail in better shape.(other than black-top which I think may not be allowed because of the lawsuit and compromise, but I do not know about that) The curve just past the end of the lake arc of the road where it goes around the split rail fence and curves with a slight hill has a spring kind of water and it can be dangerous when one hits the loose mushy stuff. Our thoughts are that we see **MANY** people ride from Frankfort and turn around. If the trail were better, they would come all of the way to Beulah, stop for refreshment, see what is in town. It would be good for business because people would find reasons to drive back and eat or shop. In the same thought, lots of people prefer the road as far as possible. I do not know where that portion of road stops being village and becomes the responsibility of, perhaps, Benzie County. There are permanent residents who live along where the potholes and lack of paved surfaces are really bad. Perhaps some cooperation could make us all proud that, at least until the road turns, it is made into a decent surface. Another thought might be that all of those who use the trail could have a volunteer group to maintain some sections 1 or 2 times in the summer; rake, stomp or roll down and make sure loose sand and gravel are raked aside. It would take some advertisement to have trail use meetings at least to get ideas about what can or cannot be done. And it could have a social event afterwards to get people to know each other.
- expand parks and beaches
- skate park upkeep, general maintenance
- am not sure what the possibilities would be-drag racing on main street-no

If you agree, which of the following activities and facilities should be added or improved?

Activities (circle all that apply)

31/35 swimming

37/41 boating

3/7 camping

28/31 fishing

7/8 field sports

26/30 picnicking

31/34 bicycling

29/32 walking

16/19 tennis

24/26 youth activities

others (list)

- we are not tennis players but there once were tennis tournaments that brought people to Beulah
- would like to see trail in the Village blacktopped
- improve trail, beach-maintain parks, courts, etc. here already

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- plant trees
- good bringing in bass tournaments. Please try to get home owners on rail trail to pave it to Mollineaux Rd.-it's noisy and dusty with gravel
- inadequate trailer parking for day boaters
- dog park
- pave the trail!
- Beulah is only a small town. Taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- add a boat marina and free lake front for aesthetic reasons
- day dock for boaters to come to downtown Beulah
- none
- all
- continue concerts and art fairs
- all is just right
- ok as is
- none
- finish hard topping the trail to Thompsonville
- rails to Trails is great!
- parking
- need public boat dock
- music, any activities that bring music and dollars to town, utilize bike trail for rentals, events, races, etc.
- tent camping, educational
- good now, but it would be a big improvement if the bike trail was paved
- bikes, boats and beaches no increased leased docking space
- pave the trail
- perhaps a regular program for lessons and group participation-especially to help people learn to swim

### Facilities (circle all that apply)

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11/11 campground development         | 16/18 tennis courts              |
| 40/43 boat launch ramp               | 14/16 snowmobile trail(s)        |
| 23/25 playground sites               | 32/34 trails (bikes and walking) |
| 6/6 new ball field                   | 21/23 cross-country ski trails   |
| 33/36 beach development              | 39/42 day boat docking facility  |
| 10/12 increased leased docking space |                                  |
- Not in the blocks near the boat ramp, too congested already

### other (list)

- bike trail should be paved
- no-eliminate (ed: didn't specify an item)
- more trees
- taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget. Beulah is only a small town.
- boat launch is shamefully inadequate and dangerous. A lakefront walk with one-way traffic, enlarged picnic facilities, beach need to be cleaned daily and made more attractive and bigger-get rid of unsightly polluting trailer park-expand swimming beach where trailer park was and add picnic area-possibly more rentable dock space
- build a marina at the campground that handles all boating in the Village

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- move docks off beach to concentrated docks in one or two places
- none
- all
- keep well maintained public restrooms
- all is just fine
- help expand winter traffic
- none
- boat launch ramp-change
- improve bathroom facility at beach-clean and well lit
- soccer field for kids
- re: increase docking space: watch out for liability of operating an unlicensed defacto boat marina- boats and swimming do not mix well and one injury will lead to major litigation vs the Village
- pave the rail trail to Frankfort-stone stuff hard on bikes
- re: day boat docking facility-no
- move dock space to one marina, allowing beach (with boardwalk) to be more inviting
- allow snowmobilers access to the restrooms. Do not block them from the facilities as it is now.
- rustic campground development
- pave the trail on the lake
- expand rental bikes, leased dockage improvements but not at the expense of losing the trailer park income, band shell for music events
- tent campground development
- perhaps a cooperative Beulah afternoon or whatever at Crystal Mt. or Champion Hill with an introduction to x-county skiing
- fix existing boat ramp so new one unnecessary
- evening and day boat docking facilities, no increase leased docking space, short-term docking for lake visitors to use restaurants, etc.

14. Areas of scenic importance identifying the unique natural character of the Village should be preserved.

76/83 agree

2/2 disagree

3/3 uncertain

- lake front and downtown
- this could be interpreted several ways but in general, yes
- do not know what could be

15. The Village area should be improved to attract additional tourists to the community.

60/67 agree

12/12 disagree

6/6 uncertain

Suggestions (list)

- village theme and upgrade store fronts
- downtown, mostly US 31 (question #5 is key)
- more attractive downtown
- streetscape like Mesick did
- have a community list of rental specific to Beulah (on website for a small fee)
- docking and use for lake residents to come into town

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- clean, consistent, inviting look to downtown
- taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget.
- evening dining, day boat docking
- more tasteful lighting (streetlamps)
- improve it for us that live here
- more trees planted
- streetlights ie: Frankfort/Mesick in keeping with quaint small town theme
- tear down bowling alley
- new train depot under utilized
- dock for day boaters
- Cold Creek made a scenic feature-weeds removed
- streetscape, day dock, moving forward/concentrating docks on beach
- better highway 31 signs
- has strong tourist presence already
- improve existing structures and fill vacant buildings with unique businesses
- more stores-shops
- better signs helps retail, better lights, sidewalk
- more trash receptacles to eliminate littering and more benches
- the Village area should be improved to attract additional summer residents to the area.
- signage to encourage usage would help
- man information center
- first upgrade key corner buildings in severe need of improvements
- improve economic activity in downtown to attract tourism. This will drive upgrading of rest of Village.
- boat launch with temporary dock space
- create a beach boardwalk which is convenient and accessible. Crystal Lake makes Beulah unique making access easy and attractive is what makes people come, then the Village grows look at the stores the village, it has little to offer that can't be found in lots of other places a great sunset viewed from a well developed easily accessible beach walk way will sell Beulah much more effectively than sidewalks or other improvements.
- landscaping is horrendous

16. A. Would you support the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities if it meant an increase in your yearly tax bill by (check one):

21/22 \$0	6/6 \$5	13/13 \$10	13/13 \$15
16/20 \$20 or more		16/17 uncertain	

- very unspecific question, what do you mean?
- use current millage
- Beulah is only a small town.
- grant writing!!
- do not know how many on tax rolls to be able to judge what that would bring in

B. Would you support an increase in taxes for focused/specific improvements (such as: streetscape/street lighting, underground utility lines)

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

14/15 \$0  
23/28 \$20 or more

6/6 \$5

17/18 \$10  
12/12 uncertain

11/11 \$15

### Suggestions:

- shouldn't that be included in operating monies?
- grant writings!!
- taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget. Beulah is only a small town.
- no, I think grants could be sought for this-but all of the above would be lovely
- support increase but unsure amount, depends
- the federal government is stuffed with money, capitalists for decades, have made sure of it
- street lamps
- add trees and landscaping to streets downtown, new streetlights that are matched to town, better parking arrangements (angle on one side, eliminate parallel on the other) shift lanes to west then expand walks for streetscaping, stop delivery trucks from blocking road traffic, create a viable DDA to assist businesses for loan cost loans for improvements or grants to assist. Do what needs doing so small businesses want to locate here and thrive.
- you need to improve your greatest asset, the beachfront, owned by the Village-very poorly developed currently-this will attract economic dollars and lead to improvement of business-very few Michigan communities have what you have-1000+ feet of lakefront, on a beautiful lake which is currently being mismanaged. Suggest you conduct a survey on this issue.
- underground utilities are safer (from motorists and much more traffic)
- underground utilities would be wonderful
- focus on specific infra structure, maintenance-sewer, water, sidewalk, public facilities. (example: replace toilet and sinks of bath on exterior of Village building)
- this is important
- no more taxes
- get grant money for this
- smart growth, esthetically pleasing developments
- village taxes are high enough and the (can't read word) water bills
- underground utility lines
- underground utility is a great idea
- try getting grants first (up to 100% in some cases)
- we are the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of our family summering here and our hearts are always with Beulah and Crystal Lake
- that's how it gets done
- to save on postage, perhaps this newsletter could be sent by email
- (respondent circled \$20 16/B) absolutely, would have a tremendous increasing social and economic development
- what about grants? (like Elberta, Frankfort-manager needed to pursue these)

### 17. Are you a (circle all that apply):

77/77 property owner  
36/36 seasonal resident  
32/33 full time resident  
47/50 retiree or 60 or older

13/15 business owner  
1/1campground resident  
2/2tourist

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

18. Do Village services and staff meet your needs: (ie: hours, responsiveness, information, etc.)yes no

If no, what would you suggest:

- DK (don't know)
- all are friendly and hours are better now than in the past
- could keep street neater and more inviting
- I feel content with services and staff
- friendlier staff and council, more proactive with information to outreach
- get a village manager or supervisor to run the daily ops. Limited hours do not help seasonal owners, summer hours should be better. Maintenance works should not answer the phone if they are not going to follow through on service or direct the proper person to deal with.
- can never get a call back from Village or an email returned. Office not open enough.
- please provide a garbage disposal site for weekend property owners
- no coordination of clerk/treasurer activities-need part-time manager/clerk for expanded role and hours
- add more hours
- taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget. Beulah is only a small town.
- village wide broadband
- water hydrant on Prospect Ave. has been broken for 2 years, fire hazard for 6 houses
- all employees try hard to perform well, maintenance crew undermanned and probably under paid
- good people
- sweep sand off sidewalks in springtime, keep drains cleaned of debris and ice to prevent road flood
- I would like a Village Police Dept. and an office open Monday through Friday
- all are so very friendly and helpful
- staff is excellent
- close off streets when events are scheduled before they begin
- either Monday or Friday hours would be helpful, perhaps instead of Wednesday
- no comment-haven't had direct need to rate
- great job
- yes
- little experience except some difficulty with dumpster location for remodeling
- observance of open meeting parts of Council meetings
- better communication with residents, specifically when any type of work is being done to streets, etc. talk with the people being affected, let them know what's going on
- she should be open at night, as in Frankfort
- have staff in office on Friday and Monday
- yes
- another Brian
- recycling (word unknown)
- better web access, hours are poor
- more hours for clerk

19. Other than these discussed, what specific changes would you like to see in the Village?

- archaic system to have Council members handling issues like road improvements, water bills, plowing, etc. – need manager for continuity between Council members and staff

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- specific park trailers parking rules that are enforced-absolutely no pets downtown & enforced.
- enforced of no bikes & skateboards on sidewalks & enforced.
- improve park area landscaping, clean up vacant buildings, lake front condos
- move the trailer park-this is prime Crystal Lake frontage and could be used for a public marina, attracting boaters from all parts of Crystal Lake to Beulah-a waterfront restaurant would also be a draw, also the public beach needs more maintenance-enhance public park area, can't something be done about the tent next to Brookside it gives Beulah a honky-tonk look.
- publish decisions by the Council in the Beulah Newspaper, 4<sup>th</sup> of July was really great!
- 24 hours emergency services line-i.e., -to report utility problems, such as flooding, downed trees
- noise ordinance, the first weekend of Outer Vibe at the Brookside was too loud. Good idea to have 'music on the swamp' but doesn't need to be so loud
- waterfront is a key asset and it must be improved
- to continue to attract tourists the Village needs to be visually attractive-keep on top of weed control along the roads and vacant property as well as keeping roads free of sand, gravel and dirt that washes down Spring Valley and into town
- taxes are already excessive. Learn to live within your budget. Beulah is only a small town.
- more effort to improve business/tourist climate in downtown
- as in other thriving towns, keep parking off Lake St. – make it scenic as out of state tourists have suggested when couldn't believe they could park there
- enforce no parking along Lake Street in front of residences, enforce no dogs or alcohol on beach, enforce curfew (10 pm) on beach and in parks. Enforce (all) laws, rules
- campground replaced with resident marina that would include day dock, the newsletter is great-keep publishing it
- I think Lake St. should be blocked at Commercial to through traffic
- house calendar of events, posted in downtown location
- correct water bills and response to issues
- streetscape, lighting, main street
- healthy main street, work to eliminate increasing number of geese on beach
- continued improvements to attract businesses and visitors
- possibly consider other festivals to bring in more tourist traffic, especially winter
- better traffic control during the summer months
- Pine Knot Resort looks like a junkyard, some downtown buildings need a facelift-bowling alley, etc.
- during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, no parking should be allowed from noon to 2:30, before and after the 1:30 parade along Benzie Blvd. for 3 to 4 blocks to allow better visibility for the parade watchers
- rail to trail hard surface from viaduct as far west as possible
- none
- do the marina concept planned a few years ago for which planning commission spent time for advice, why not accept it?
- four way stop signs at intersection of Commercial and Benzie Blvd. to safeguard pedestrians in the crosswalk and to slow traffic through town. Eliminate angle parking, build/install expanded parking lot one block or so out of town. Force businesses to remove snow from all sidewalks during winter. Enforce no parking signs and no pet signs along Trail on Crystal Ave., these two ordinances are always broken! Please monitor
- I drive 240 miles to get way from southeast Michigan and crowds...don't change anything and I won't be upset
- stop the erosion and run off, it all goes into the lake where we swim, water testing at the beach after heavy rains, the storm sewers empty into the lake at the swimming area

## SUMMARY - Village of Beulah Survey - Master Plan Update - Summer 2009

- not sure
- more retail and food services
- all docks should be consolidated into a master dock-free up\improve public beach areas
- focus should be on the basics, like water, sewer, sidewalks. This Council is doing a good job at that! Is there a way to help owners of 'shabby building' in Beulah downtown bring them into good repair-by getting grants if possible to help complete needed repairs and improvements. Overall, Beulah is a terrific town and has improved in the past several years in buildings, parking, sidewalks and overall positive image, as well as important infrastructure like water and sewer. Keep up the good work!
- more restaurants especially on the east side of the lake, movie theater
- you need to make your lake frontage an asset by proper development instead of an eyesore and potential substantial liability for the Village
- better parking for lunch-shuttle service to parking/golf cart with assistant to drive people, keep things moving. Pay for with launch fees typically \$5 each/ \$40 season/ free Village taxpayers
- continue or increase cooperative efforts to ensure septic systems are eliminated around the lake and therefore improve water quality.
- have the public bathroom open year round-especially for planned events, it was closed for Winter Fest, made no sense, empty garbage cans more often. Why does Brian and crew all ride around in same truck? If they separated, they could get more done. Also note, family members riding in trucks.
- details-it's the little things like weed whacking and weed control, litter pickup, etc that stand out when not done regularly. Painting and normal maintenance also, dead donated trees removed, sidewalk weeds, move the eyesore of the recycle to the Benzie Government Center and relocate the DPS operations east out of town to free up space and developable area
- boardwalk along lake, eliminate camper park, replace with town marina, etc.
- public recycling with trash cans
- maybe a police officer on a bike, speed limit enforced
- day boat docking, move forward with new boat launch on south shore
- I'm happy with Beulah generally. Thank you for all you do.
- I would like to see the Sheriff's office enforce the ordinances that have been made in 1985. Noise ordinance!
- outreach to and incentives for young people and families to locate in Village and start forward/operate businesses
- optimize the sunsets and the beauty of the lake. From north entrance on Benzie Blvd. to Commercial, the traffic needs to be slowed down- the street is wide.
- vision-planning-goals to work toward to get where we want to be
- more volunteer police, EMS and firefighters
- catering of Village to more tourist trade, sprucing up-painting, cleaning, flowers, trees
- improve 31 as it passes by the Village; replace steel guard rails with stone or faux stone, walls and lampposts.
- would like to see more evening activities, especially in summer, close downtown street for food vendors and musicians, keep stores open at night

and conduct an engineering and right of way study for improvements to the roadend.

- Thompsonville to Interlochen Trail Connection  
The State Trailway Plan calls for looping, interconnection, and connecting communities with trails. The Thompsonville-Interlochen Rail Trail connection is currently being studied by an ad hoc stakeholder group with the support of the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council, and the Traverse Area Rail Trail, Inc. The group has established that the initiative is both a local and State goal. The State Trailways Division of the MDNR has successfully obtained two major Natural Resources Trust Fund grants to purchase portions of the former Pere Marquette Railroad Corridor from private property owners from Kaleva north to within two miles of Thompsonville, and is working cooperatively with the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds (snowmobile organization) on another segment. The only known obstacle is finding willing sellers for the 4-5 miles of remaining rail corridor not currently under State ownership in Manistee and Benzie Counties. Alternative routes may be necessary and easier to acquire.
- Northwest Michigan Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy 2008  
The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments developed the plan for the 13 counties of Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, along with Osceola, Lake, and Mason in northwest, lower Michigan. The Michigan Department of Transportation commissioned the plan and will use it to prioritize funding projects for the future. The guiding vision of this project is to connect existing trails, offering residents and visitors more opportunities for non-motorized transportation, and to enjoy more of the region's natural resources. Benzie County Priority Routes:  
1. Thompsonville to Bendon to Traverse City, 2. Honor to Betsie Valley Trail, 3. Complete route around Crystal Lake, 4. Complete route around Platte Lake.
- Archive Parks and Recreation Records and Project Files  
Not having the necessary support staff, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commissioners need to gather and organize all historical records and pertinent documents and place in the custody of the Benzie County Clerk.

Goal 3: Benzie County will increase access to all public lands and waters.

*Objectives:*

- Increase access to public lands for citizens and visitors.
- Increase access to all public waterways in Benzie County for swimming, fishing, and boating, including all appropriate types of watercraft i.e. motorized and/or non-motorized.
- Encourage the acquisition of lands for water access on lakes, rivers, and streams.
- The Benzie County Planning Commission and local jurisdictions will refine comprehensive plans for each jurisdiction that establishes appropriate locations for access sites.

- The Benzie County Planning Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Road Commission, the Department of Natural Resources and local jurisdictions will develop adequate public launch sites with off-street parking, buffered from adjacent properties.
- Preserve water access through road-ends.
- The Benzie County Recreation Commission will partner with local interest groups to develop educational programs for persons who fish and boat regarding safety, invasive species control, shoreline and near-shore habitat protection, and private property rights.

*Action Plan Priorities:*

- Access to Public Waters

Access to various water activities is a major concern to Benzie County residents and visitors. Public access is not sufficient and there are often conflicts between riparians and the general public. Many access sites are not improved to provide off-road parking and paved launch ramps. Given that water access is important to various recreational activities that are attractive to both Benzie County citizens and visitors it has remained a top priority for more than a decade. The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission will work collaboratively with the National Park Service, MDNR, the Benzie County Road Commission, Townships, City of Frankfort, and Villages to preserve public access at road-ends and to provide improved public boating access to waterbodies.

- MDNR Crystal Lake Public Boating Access Site

The Public Trust Doctrine in Michigan declares, *“The Department of Natural Resources is the caretaker of our natural resources, charged by the legislature with the duties of acquiring, conserving, and developing for public use, the natural resources of the State, including access to water.”*

The resolution that formed the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission declares, *“Whereas the recreation and water resources section of the Master Plan will be impacted by future events that will require a government structure for adequate response”* and *“That its purpose will be that of implementing the goals and objectives relating to recreation and water resources in Benzie County.”*

Therefore, we, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, continue to stand firmly in support of the planned and permitted MDNR public access site on the south shore of Crystal Lake, and resoundingly believe the Courts should approve construction to proceed as soon as possible for the safety and welfare of our citizens.

- Comprehensive State Statute Re: Access to Public Waters

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission affirms the public’s legal right and desire to fish, boat, and sail on Michigan’s inland lakes and reemphasizes the legality and importance of access to lakes and streams if all citizens are to enjoy those public resources. After enduring years of costly delays and litigation over a single access site in the County, the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the need and supports a comprehensive state statute or constitutional amendment that clearly and firmly establishes for all time the public’s right of access to our inland lakes and streams.

- Access to Public Lands

The Parks and Recreation Commission will advocate and provide for continued and appropriate access to public lands for the use of county residents and visitors alike. Public lands remain invaluable to both residents and visitors for recreational activities ranging from a hike or leisurely drive, to use for hunting and fishing, to an even more active ride down a trail on a horse or snowmobile. Access must be maintained and/or gained to many public lands, also, to lakes and streams via roads and trails owned by the County Road Commission, GTRLC, the Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service.

Goal 4: The Benzie County shoreline of Lake Michigan will provide recreational opportunities for all Benzie County citizens and visitors.

*Objectives:*

- Recognize the Lake Michigan shoreline as an open space that can be used by all citizens and preserved for public use.
- Provide Lake Michigan access sites at regular intervals along the County shoreline.
- Provide sufficient parking and other related facilities at access sites.
- Maintain Lake Michigan beaches in excellent condition.

*Action Plan Priority:*

- Lake Michigan Drive Road-end Access Improvement

The Platte Bay fishery is a world-class fishery without a viable launch facility. The project is for the complete reconstruction of the existing access site on Lake Michigan Drive at the mouth of the Platte River on Platte Bay.

The current ramp is made of old bomber mat that is now rusted out and breaking up with unsafe jagged protrusions. The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Benzie County Road Commission, Lake Township, the National Park Service, the Department of Natural Resources, the State Waterways Commission (grant funding), and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (grant funding) all understand the launch facility is in very poor repair and the need for the reconstruction project is both important and immediate. There are serious concerns about boater safety that this project will solve, and we look forward to seeing those anglers that no longer fish Platte Bay return.

Goal 5: Benzie County will expand recreational and cultural offerings for persons with disabilities.

*Objectives:*

- Promote recreational opportunities for particular population groups such as the elderly; physically, mentally, socially or economically handicapped; youth and others that require special attention.
- Increase access for persons with disabilities to all waterways through accessible boat ramps and docks.

*Action Plan Priority:*

- Expand Recreational Opportunities to Include Persons with Disabilities  
Coordinate with the Trailway Management Council and the Department of Natural Resources to pave the Betsie Valley Trail from Beulah to Mollineaux Road. This will allow safe use by disabled citizens and visitors, and discourage pedestrian traffic on the narrow roadway adjacent to the trail.

**Goal 6:** Benzie County will have a wide variety of indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural opportunities for citizens, including school-age children, seasonal residents, and transient visitors.

*Objectives:*

- The County Recreational and Cultural Plan is periodically updated to meet the needs of citizens and to upgrade or obtain parks, recreational, and cultural facilities not provided by schools.
- Encourage the development of additional year-round, indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural facilities that correct deficiencies in the County's inventory of facilities.
- Develop County recreation properties for appropriate recreational and cultural uses.
- Encourage rehabilitation of historic structures for public recreational and cultural uses.
- Meet the recreational needs of residents in communities throughout the County who enjoy parks, playgrounds, ice rinks, tennis courts, basketball courts, skateparks, and ballfields in sufficient numbers at various sites throughout the County.
- Encourage innovative approaches and techniques to meet local recreational and cultural programs and facility needs.
- Encourage the private sector to develop facilities that will complement public uses.
- Promote access to trails, parks, and public lands for non-motorized uses such as walking, hiking, biking, roller-blading, skateboarding, and cross-country skiing.
- Increase lands for hunting.
- Encourage access to snowmobile trails and list roadways and/or trails open for ORV use.
- Recognize school-supplied recreation as a key component of the total County recreation system.
- Benzie County communities work in conjunction with the schools to provide access to schools for recreational and cultural opportunities and encourage the school system to "open their doors" to community organizations to better utilize meeting rooms, auditoriums and theaters, gymnasiums and locker rooms, and other outdoor recreational facilities.
- Strengthen and provide educational outreach in Benzie County by encouraging community based educational opportunities by groups such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 4H, and other university and extracurricular programs.

**Goal 10:** Benzie County anticipates future recreational and cultural needs and will act on opportunities for the acquisition and development of recreational and cultural facilities, sites, open spaces, and programs.

*Objectives:*

- Benzie County will encourage the development of recreational uses in locations attractive to citizens and tourists.
- Identify priority sites to purchase for recreational purposes.
- Acquisition of land should be prioritized to address the most popular recreational activities as identified from public input, including walking/hiking, swimming, fishing, canoe/kayaking, and wildlife viewing.
- Link recreational land acquisitions with other natural resource protection priorities including the M-22 and Betsie Valley Trail scenic corridors, inland lake access, rare or endangered habitats and species, scenic vistas, cultural resources, and State-designated environmental areas such as Critical Dunes, Natural Rivers, and State Game areas.
- Collaborate with public and private partners, including the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, to fund the purchase and maintenance of recreational properties and market these recreational opportunities to the public.
- Develop an education program for owners of potential recreational properties on the benefits of property donation and seek donations of properties on the list of desired recreational sites.
- Encourage the utilization, for recreational uses, of lands that have soil types that are less conducive to “developed” uses, i.e. agriculture, residential, commercial, or industrial.
- Promote recreational uses that do not infringe upon the visual or ecological quality of open spaces, forests, hills, bluffs, orchards, lakes, shorelines, or embankments, but enhances or at least preserves, the natural quality that creates the original need or desire for a facility in that area.
- Preserve floodplain areas and wetlands for open space activities, such as wildlife refuges, hunting, fishing, and passive recreation.
- Considering demand, encourage the development of a system whereby the number of participants is controlled at acceptable levels in sensitive areas to diminish impacts on natural resources.
- Encourage the creation of tourism related jobs for County residents to increase economic growth.

*Action Plan Priorities:*

- Collaborate with Public and Private Partners  
Take advantage of land acquisition opportunities that support the highest priorities for recreational activities as identified by the public survey, including the acquisition of land for public beaches, natural areas, and for extension or enhancement of non-motorized trails (including the Betsie Valley Trail). Acquisition opportunities will be carefully considered to insure that the site is compatible with its intended uses and that the site can be legally and safely accessed by the public.

Work in Cooperation with Local Units of Government

The Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission will encourage each community in the County to develop or upgrade its Recreation Plan. The Commission will encourage local communities to work with the County Planning Commission, local planning commissions, and the County Parks and Recreation Commission to assess the need for facilities, methods to acquire, fund and develop projects, and the responsible operation and maintenance of same.

*Please note that some of the information included in the above goals and objectives was taken from the 1992, 1997, and 2002 Benzie County Recreation Plans and the 2020 Benzie County Comprehensive Development Plan.*