

CITYCNCL

03-07-23 [Brownfield plan approved for \$10M project at site of former ReStore on Chisholm St.]

The Alpena Municipal Council approved a Brownfield Plan Monday evening, for a proposed \$10 million project at the site of the former Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 400 W. Chisholm Street.

That store burned to the ground in November 2019, due not an electrical issue.

It was announced last September that local developers Bruce Dietz, Tim Fitzpatrick and Chris Lawrence would be constructing a 38,000 square foot mixed-use, two-story building at the site, with 15 apartments on the top floor and commercial and retail space on the lower floor. It was announced around the same time that the approximate \$10 million project received a state grant of \$4.97 million.

The Brownfield Plan approved by the Municipal Council last night, and approved last month by the Alpena Authority for Brownfield Redevelopment in February, will reimburse the developers for certain environmental and non-environmental activities up to a little over \$1.52 million. That includes the cleanup of mercury and other Volatile Organic Compounds in the soil at the site, along with lead and arsenic and other compounds found in the groundwater. Those expenses will be reimbursed through the capture of local and state taxes over an 11 and 12 year period respectively.

The taxes captured are incremental taxes generated by an increase in the property value of the site only. Had the project not occurred, those taxes would not have been generated.

Once the Brownfield Plan expires, the project is expected to produce an estimated \$213,000 per year in property tax revenue.

Construction is expected to start sometime this year with a potential completion date in late 2024.

FIRE/POLICE

03-07-23 [Alpena Fire/Police save man & dog that fell through the ice]

A man and his dog were rescued Monday, (MAR 6) after falling through ice on the Thunder Bay River off Cow Island.

City police and firefighters were called to the scene shortly after 12:30 p.m., on a report that a man fell through the ice on the south end of the river.

When crews arrived on scene they found the man approximately 40' from shore and learned that he broke through the ice while trying to rescue the family dog, which fell in the river another approximate 200' from shore.

The first crew was able to throw a rescue line to the man and bring him to safety within seven minutes of arriving. He was evaluated but refused treatment and transport to the hospital.

Other crews were able to rescue the dog about 10 minutes later, with the aid of a cold-water ice rescue suit and a tethered rescue line. Family members chose to take the dog to a veterinarian for evaluation as the animal was clinging onto the ice and in the water for approximately 17 minutes.

Fire Chief Rob Edmonds was joined on scene by Community Risk Reduction Captain Andy Marceau, along with six firefighter/paramedics and city police officers.

POLICE

03-07-23 [Alpena inmate may face charges for tampering with shower head]

An inmate at the Alpena County Jail is potentially facing charges for damaging a fire suppression head over the weekend.

Corrections Officers said that around 1:30 a.m. Sunday, (MAR 5) they were forced to move inmates "to a safe area," after an inmate broke a fire suppression head, causing water to spill into the pod.

The incident was isolated to one housing area and water damage in the cell was cleaned up and fans are being used to dry the area. The fire suppression system has also been repaired.

The incident remains under investigation and a final report will be submitted to the prosecutor's office for possible charges and restitution.

Firefighters from the City of Alpena and the Combat Readiness Training Center were called in to assist at the scene, along with state police.