



NODPC Meeting

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

09:30 to 11:am00

Sleepy Hollow Golf Course (9445 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio)

### **1.) Introductions**

- Began at 09:34

### **2.) Video Presentation – Digging Dangers 33**

- After video, the group discussed how the incidents shown in the video relate to large and complex fiber projects happening throughout our area. We discussed the importance of communication with the contractors, municipalities, and locators with these projects and the importance of prioritizing safety for all.

### **3.) Meet Location Starting April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

- We discussed that our meeting location will be moving to the Civic Center in Independence. Chuck stated that the exact address and interior location will be discussed at next month's meeting which will be at the same place as today's.

### **4.) By-Law, Mission Statement, & Logo Review**

- The mission statement will be added to the website shortly.

- The council held a vote to change the current logo and the “#1 Option” had the majority vote.

### **5.) Ohio 811 Updates**

- January 2023 was the busiest January on record with 97, 552 total tickets received (up 18%YOY).

- The increase is due to several factors including more fiber projects, passing of the infrastructure bill, better education of 811, and public awareness.

### **6.) Speakers for 2023**

- Badger will be the speaker for April 2023

- We discussed ODOT would like to participate but are unsure of the month.

- Johnny Henson from USIC stated previously that he would like to present but was not present at the meeting to give further details.

### **7.) April Safe Digging Month**

- We discussed the option to have an outreach day where we would meet with contractors and deliver 811 educational materials in addition to gathering their feedback and concerns.

- Discussed having a Sporting Clay Event at Hill n Dale (possibly Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>).

### **8.) Marking Standards**

- We discussed the need for a clear definition of conduit and duct runs.

- Kevin Anderson will be representing our council at the marking standards meeting.

- We discussed the need for a clearer definition of where the circled “m” symbols (for lines marked according to record) should be placed and the frequency that they should be used.

- Abandoned lines were brought up and if they should be located. We discussed that the law states the any line that is owned and operated (meaning still in use) has to be located. If it is not an active facility, it does not need to be located. This can be addressed with the coalition.

- Cuyahoga Falls electric brought up the concern of contractors not being aware that secondary power lines in that area are private lines and are not located through 811. The council agreed that there needs to be more awareness on non-customer owned/private facilities and how they should be handled (especially with large fiber projects rolling through the area). Other examples in the area include the Cleveland Clinic and larger universities.

### **9.) Open Discussion**

- We congratulated Chuck on his promotion to Public Awareness/Services Coordinator Manager.

- We discussed reviewing the possibility and date of having a joint meeting with the eastern council (possibly August or September).

- We discussed moving the December breakfast meeting back one week but will communicate further in upcoming meetings.

- Jack Bennett brought attention to the massive fiber overhaul in Lucas County. We again discussed that safety and communication is key for both these and any other large projects. There are currently over fifty HDDs on this project. It is crucial that municipalities and locators determine when projects will start, where they will start, and the projected duration of the project. The council then discussed a common issue is subcontractors are under financial and contractual stress from prime contractors to complete jobs quickly.

A motion to end the meeting was made at 10:49am and was seconded unanimously.