



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

July 27, 2018

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

Michigan Municipal Executives Conference

As part of the Michigan Municipal Executives spring conference in Charlevoix, Gordon Gallagher, who is the Township Manager for Spring Lake Township, and Dr. Jane Millar, Executive Director for Northern Community Mediation, facilitated a breakout session titled “Michigan’s Mediation Centers: An Untapped Resource” on July 18. As the township manager, Gallagher often has residents complain because someone has done something that negatively impacts the complainant. For example, an individual plants a tree on his own property that drops pine cones all over the yard of his neighbor.

Gallagher has found that in telling a complainant that there is nothing that can be done only adds to the frustration. Consequently, he recommends taking advantage of the local Citizen Dispute Resolution Program center. Mediation does not always have to involve the legal system. It is an avenue through which all types of disagreements can be resolved.

Gallagher believes in this approach so much that he wanted to share it with other municipal managers. Therefore, he contacted Millar to co-present a breakout session at the conference. Approximately 25 people attended the session. Throughout the prepared presentation, there were questions. Those questions continued following the presentation. A common remark was, “What a great idea! I’m going to have to keep this in mind.”

For more information about the Michigan Municipal Executives, got to www.mna.org

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Pictured left to right: Rebecca Fleury, Vester Davis, Jane Millar, Gordon Gallagher, Dan Wietecha, Pat McGinnis

Main Office
415 State Street
Petoskey, MI 49770
231.487.1771 (voice) 231.487.1770 (fax)