

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Township Hall
May 8, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** Skurski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Atkinson, Dahl, Karczewski, Skurski, Swift, Dreier, Murphy
4. **Approve Agenda** Karczewski adds April Financial Report to the Consent Agenda. Swift placed building demolition at 4025 Swaney as item G under Business and Skurski adds DTE Tree Grant as item H under Business. Dreier makes a motion to accept the agenda as amended with a second by Atkinson. **PASSED UNAN**
5. **Brief Citizens Comments-for items not on the agenda**
Nate Farran 454 Hamilton St. Traverse City
Norte Mountain Biking Team requested to practice in the east bay neighborhoods and Pelizzari Natural Area. This is a non-profit program and usually rides and trains at The Commons in Traverse City, but is being negatively impacted by the closing of a portion of 8th Street. Norte is looking to ride Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:15-6:15 p.m. for four weeks. Riding in the 8th Street area has become unsafe for the team.
Murphy: The Pelizzari Natural Area Master Plan prohibits biking within that area and the trails are not designed for bike use.
Skurski: Norte request is not approved.
6. **Conflict of Interest** None
7. **Consent Agenda:** any member of the committee, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion.
 - A. Minutes from February 26, 2019; March 21, 2019 (as corrected) and Minutes from April 24, 2019
 - B. Reports
 - a. Forest Management
 - b. Pelizzari Natural Area

Action-Motion Karczewski moves that the consent agenda be approved with a second by Dreier. **PASSED UNAN**

8. Business

- A. Dredging at Haserot Beach

Atkinson: Elmer's is going to dredge at Haserot Beach on May 10, 2019. The dredging permit issued by the DNR is good through 2023. Beach sand sifting and clean-up is also to be done by Elmer's.

- B. Buildings and Grounds Director (Wilkinson) Absent
- C. 150-year Lighthouse Preparation & Celebration

Skurski: Schultz, the lighthouse manager has started creating the materials for the promotion. Need to begin to pull together other organizations if there is going to be any special events. I know the Michigan Lighthouse Festival is going to have events at the lighthouse in August, 2020.

Karczewski: I went out to the lighthouse and met Schultz, the lighthouse manager and had a tour.

Swift: How does the parks committee interface with the lighthouse long term? It is unknown how the Friends of the Lighthouse will participate.

Skurski: If we hit the target date for the charter and responsibilities of the parks committee being finalized, our role should be defined.

Atkinson: Recommend for the township board to create a committee by July 1, 2019 to gather together those organizations and volunteers interested in the anniversary.

D. Recognition of OMP School Children's Clean-up

Skurski: Children from the OMP were out cleaning up around the lighthouse. There was a picture in the Record Eagle. This is the type of publicity and recognition of community service we need to help create more volunteers. He suggests that the parks committee create a plaque and honor the students for their service. Members of the parks committee would present the plaque in a ceremony at the school.

Action-Motion Karczewski moves that a plaque and award ceremony be held at the school in recognition of their service. Dreier seconds. **PASSED UNAN**

E. Bowers Harbor Park Special Event Permit Requests

a. Holy Angels School Picnic

Action-Motion Swift moves to approve the Holy Angels Picnic request with a second by Karczewski. **PASSED UNAN**

F. Park Signage

Skurski: There is \$5,000 in the budget for park and trail signage.

Karczewski: I walk the trails frequently and volunteer to make recommendations for the signage. At Mission Point Park there are different varieties of signs. We can look for uniformity where possible.

G. Demolition of building at 4025 Swaney

Skurski: There are two bids to demolish this building, which is on park land. The trustees have asked for our recommendation and trustees will agree with the decision we reach tonight. This would create additional parking for Haserot Beach and help reduce dangerous parking along the shoulder of the road.

Atkinson: This would be helpful with the overflow parking and would help create additional, safe parking; this provides a better solution than cutting down trees in that area. Pedestrians walk along the road and this can be dangerous due to the parked cars and poor visibility by drivers. The building is somewhat of an eye sore.

Swift: The bid calls for topsoil and seed to be placed where the building was. Why don't we just skip the topsoil and seed and move to gravel.

Atkinson: This is just a first step in a process to improve that entire area. It blends into the type of ground surface that is currently there, which is grass.

Swift: Why don't we wait until September?

Atkinson: I recommend we move ahead and gain six or seven additional parking spaces for the summer season with this demolition.

Dreier: I have walked around the building and it is virtually falling down. It was not until a busy day when I saw all the cars on Swaney and little children walking in the middle of the road with their flip-flops and beach toys that I realized this was a real problem. The neighbors do not like all this traffic. **Action-Motion** Dreier moves to proceed with the demolition by Bosch and we ask that the area be cordoned off until the grass can get established. Second by Atkinson.

PASSED UNAN

H. Tree Grant DTE

Skurski: The township has an opportunity to apply for a grant again this year from DTE for trees.

Atkinson: Last year the grant went for 25 sugar maple trees. Twenty were planted last fall on the west side of Bowers Harbor Expansion Park and five at Haserot Beach.

Skurski: Part of the agreement for Bowers Harbor Expansion Park was to put up a natural barrier. The township has to put up money as a match and they have agreed to do so.

Karczewski: This says that this can be cash or in-kind services.

Atkinson: Last year we used the grant money to purchase the trees. The park system hired the labor from the company that provided the trees. Last year the township offices received a notification and Supervisor Manigold applied for the grant.

Swift: What we are looking from this committee tonight is a recommendation that we apply for the grant again this year?

Skurski: Yes, and we recommend those trees be planted at Bowers Harbor Expansion Park.

Action-Motion Swift moves that the grant be applied for this year. Dreier seconds.

PASSED UNAN

9. Citizen Comments None

10. Board Comments

Skurski: A family wants to put a memorial bench out at the lighthouse. We use several companies for benches so there is continuity with the bench styles. The family pays for the bench and there is a \$250 installation fee. We will monitor and approve the language on the bench before installation.

Dreier: How does a citizen alert the township of an issue in one of the parks?

Skurski: One can contact one of the parks committee members or the trustees. If it is a safety issue, you want to get a hold of Wilkinson as well.

Dreier: For example: there has been significant cracking at the asphalt at Bowers Harbor. It would be far less expensive to seal those cracks now then wait to do more extensive repairs in the future.

Skurski: Wilkinson can go out and look at it to make recommendations.

Murphy: I would like to become more familiar with the parks and their issues.

Atkinson: I think it is part of our duty as members of the parks committee to be familiar with the parks. If there is a big decision, we can meet at that location.

Dahl: The replacement bumper poles have arrived for the veteran's flag at the turn around at the lighthouse.

11. Adjournment

Action-Motion Moved by Swift to adjourn, seconded by Dreier.

Adjournment: 8:22 p.m.

Peninsula Township
May 8, 2019 Parks Committee
Lola Jackson, Recording Secretary
Draft Minutes