

BOWERS HARBOR PARK EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting

June 2, 2016

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Present: Shipman, Chair; Reardon, Rosi, Foote, Swift, Snow, Havenga

Approve Agenda

Motion: Rosi/Swift to approve the agenda. MOTION PASSED.

BRIEF CITIZEN COMMENTS – FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

BUSINESS

A. Introductions

Committee members and members of the public attending introduced themselves.

B. Purpose and Role of Committee

The committee will carry out the administrative process required to plan the park expansion area and improvements to the existing Bowers Harbor Park. There will be public input in evaluating development options for the expansion area and improvements to current infrastructure (e.g. playground). The entire park area will be considered one park in evaluating development and infrastructure.

The role of the committee is to assist the Park Commission in planning the park. The committee will provide recommendations to the Park Commission. The Park Commission will make recommendations to the Town Board.

C. Review Property/Acquisition History and Grant Requirements

Rob Manigold provided a brief history of the property including farming and development proposals, the testing that had been done after the dump at the compactor station was capped with clay and that no dump contamination was found, and the acquisition process that had recently been completed to purchase the property for public use. The purchase was completed with funds from GTRLC donors, Peninsula Township and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

The grant requirements were reviewed by Shipman, Foote and Reardon. There was confirmation that the required sign had been installed on the site. Other grant requirements included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and that the park must be maintained in perpetuity. Long-term maintenance of all infrastructure included in the development will be a planning consideration.

Reardon stated the Park Commission now has maintenance responsibility for the property. Swift suggested that neighbors should be informed that the property is now a park, and that any encroachment, including activities such as driving on the property or piling of brush, must cease.

Discussion followed regarding mailing an informational postcard.

D. Review Environmental Assessments and Due Care Plan

David Foote reviewed the nature of the contamination from past agricultural activities and the environmental due care recommendations. Discussion followed regarding the need to address due care precautions for development options.

E. Establish Goals and Timeline

Discussion about ensuring involvement of greatest number of residents by holding public input meetings over the summer months. Discussion followed regarding proposed timeline for two public input meetings, one in

July, one in August.

F. Determine Outside Help Needed

Shipman discussed the public stakeholder group that worked in 2013 to develop ideas for land use and park development suitable to the site for part of the grant application to the Trust Fund. The landscape architecture work already completed by Beckett and Raeder under contract to GTRLC in 2013 was reviewed, including a draft concept plan. There was consensus that using the concept plan as a starting point for public review and discussion was sensible, considering the investment already made. There was discussion that the portion of the concept drawing for the original BHP needs to be adjusted as the ball fields development has been completed since the concept plan was prepared.

G. Budget Request for Planning Process

More information is needed from Beckett-Raeder regarding cost for adjustment to concept drawing of original BHP and integration of environmental engineering review as part of the planning process.

Susie Shipman to make requests for estimates for budgeting purposes for environmental engineering analysis as a part of planning process, including Township engineer of record, Gourdie Fraser Associates, author of site environmental assessment and Due Care Plan, Otwell-Mawby, and Beckett-Raeder.

H. Meetings Schedule

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

MOTION: Swift/Reardon to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Shipman,
Peninsula Township Park Commission

These minutes stand to be approved at the next scheduled meeting (week of June 20, 2016).