

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Township Hall**  
**July 10, 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** Skurski, Murphy, Karczewski, Swift, Atkinson, Dahl, Dreier (excused), Mielnek- Director of Planning
4. **Approve Agenda**  
*Action-Motion:* Swift moved to accept the agenda with a second by Atkinson. **Passed Unam**
5. **Brief Citizens Comments-for items not on the agenda**  
John Scarbrough 14429 Center Road  
I am President of the Old Mission Historical Society. I would suggest there be citizen input before decisions are reached and reports are written.
6. **Conflict of Interest** None
7. **Consent Agenda:** any member of the board, 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 June 12, 2019
  - B. Reports/Correspondence
    - a. Memo from Bill Stott
    - b. Memo from Connie Leutloff*Action-Motion:* Swift moved the consent agenda be approved. Second by Murphy **Passed Unam**
8. **Business**
  - A. Planner Update (Mielnek)
    - a. Haserot Boat Ramp Grant-the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) verbally told Mielnek a \$350,000 grant received approval and the township is waiting for the money and grant agreement.
    - b. PNA/Consumers- Township attorney is working directly with Consumers on the utility corridor though Pelizzari Natural Area. If power goes out, this corridor is used. Requested citizens take photos if the utility is in violation with their truck or equipment placement and forward them to him.
    - c. Signage & Wayfinding- Karczewski and Mielnek met with Manigold and discussed obtaining samples from various design companies to create uniform signage within the peninsula. Two people from the township board and two from the parks committee will work together.
  - B. Buildings and Grounds Director (Wilkinson) The new swim buoys are illegal and must be removed. Met with a DNR officer for two days on the peninsula and any buoys put at Haserot require a permit. Within 100 feet of a buoy, boats need to be on a slow, no wake speed and not cross the buoys. Boat traffic must obey the buoys, so getting the permit is important. The DNR is tasked with the enforcement. There have been complaints made to the township, but

the DNR is the enforcement agency for this and there has not been any complaints made to the DNR. The signs at the lighthouse regarding no parking on the U shaped curve are not enforceable unless they are approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The dock at Haserot has been lifted as high as possible. There is no pipe to lift the dock any higher. The end section of the dock could be removed and move those existing pipes closer or longer pipes could be purchased.

- C. Lighthouse Manager Report (Schultz) The lighthouse is now open every day from 10 a.m. to 5: p.m. The gift shop net sales are \$48,800.49 with \$23,572.00 coming from tours. This is \$6008.68 more than last year's net sales. The increase in overall sales is due to better traffic flow with the gift shop having been moved, increased prices on items, higher number of visitors, and more social media. The list of maintenance and repairs are in the Lighthouse Manager Report for July 10, 2019 included in the packet for this meeting.

**Swift:** The signage of the No Parking around the U curve is ineffective. We need more official looking signs. What can be done about this issue?

**Skurski:** We need enforcement. This is MDOT property and we are working to get MDOT to address this issue. Local enforcement could potentially be a faster solution until MDOT takes action.

- D. Lighthouse Park-No swimming signage

**Skurski:** Do we want to make a recommendation that there is no swimming at lighthouse park? The committee needs to find out what is the responsibility of the township toward the beaches around the lighthouse and Archie Park.

**Dahl:** The results of these findings need to be put into official documents sent to the various entities to help limit township exposure.

**Action-Motion:** Skurski moves Mielnik and himself to contact MDOT to find out about the safety requirements for people crossing across the road to reach Archie Park and the U shape curve of parking at the lighthouse. Swift seconded.

**Passed Unam**

- E. Bowers Harbor Park

a. Music in the Park Review

**Swift:** I was the most concerned about this event. The music sound did not leave the park and I am all for this activity. There were about 100 people including families and children. The event was well contained.

b. Potential Purchase of Pickle Ball Equipment

**Atkinson:** The pickleball nets are owned by the users of the game. The township does not own any nets. The nets need to be removed as the court is also used for tennis. The question is where to store the pickleball nets if the township were to purchase nets for the causal users who do not own nets. Further investigation on usage will be looked into.

- F. Haserot Park – Beach Maintenance

**Skurski:** Since the water level is so high, this creates a berm and then the water goes over and forms a pool of water. What we are looking at is bringing in some sand to push the water back into the lake. We need to find out what permits are required. The question is will this fix the problem?

**Atkinson:** In talking with several contractors, the movement of the berm will not fix the problem and only invite more sand to come onto the beach.

**Wilkenson:** Suggested to dredge the area at Haserot and put the sand onto the beach. The permit might still be valid and is held by the township.

G. Park Ordinance-Usage of Marijuana on park properties

**Karczewski:** Banning all marijuana use on all of Grand Traverse Park property has occurred. A recommendation to the town board to ban the usage of marijuana and THC on peninsula park property is necessary at this time. This requires the peninsula to opt-out of the use of marijuana in public places and the parks.

**Action-Motion-** Swift moves to make a recommendation to the town board that marijuana and THC use be banned from the peninsula parks. Karczewski seconds.

Ayes: Skurski, Karczewski, Atkinson, Swift

Nays: Dahl

Murphy: Abstain

H. Finalize Recommendations RE: Historic properties

**Skurski:** This committee wants to separate the historic properties from the parks. There are differences between running a recreational park from an historic property.

**Atkinson:** We need to talk to the various organizations running the historical sites and are glad so many of you have come tonight. I want to hear from you about what recommendations this committee should make to the town board.

**Swift:** This committee has decided that we do not have the expertise to manage the historic properties on the peninsula. The township owns these properties and the township board needs to manage these historical properties.

**Murphy:** This is a new committee that is working to define our mandate. The township has staff and more resources to aid with the historical properties on this peninsula.

## 9. Citizen Comments

Bill Cole 3461 Shorewood

I have been the President of the Peter Dougherty House for 8 years. The only item the township has paid is the electric bill and issued the appropriate building permits for the restoration project. All of the money has come from grants, donations, and the committed volunteers. On June 15, 2019 there was a dedication and the house is now open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We are creating a docent program. We do not want the township micromanaging the Dougherty House and most of the volunteers will quit if this becomes the case. Every year we prepare a report listing our accomplishments and the plans for the upcoming year. There has never been any response or even a question about these activities and report. The only members of the town board who have been to the Dougherty House have been Manigold and Sanger. I seriously hope your recommendations to the town board reflect our views.

John Scarbrough 14429 Center Road

He gave a brief explanation of the Hessler Log Cabin history and the creation of the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society in 1993.

I want to tell you some of the events sponsored by the society. We maintain the Hessler Log Cabin, host the Log Cabin Days that attracts hundreds of people, maintain the lighthouse more than this committee understands, maintain the Dougherty House, take care of the Log Cabin Church, have created an audio tour of these historic sites for visitors, and planted 644 trees on this peninsula. We have earned a seat at the table and feel disrespected that our views were not taken into account before this report was written.

Peninsula Township  
July 10, 2019 Parks Committee  
Lola Jackson, Recording Secretary

Ellen Kerr 14548 Bluff Road

The historical society is the official curator of the Hessler Log Cabin. This was made with an agreement between the parks commission, the historical society, and Holt, the Treasurer of the Historical Society. The society gave the parks commission \$12,100. We gave the township \$600 to power wash the roof at the Hessler Log Cabin. This is strong group of committed citizens that need to be taken into account and respected.

Anne Griffith 600 Cottage View Drive Number 438

If the township is going to deal with the enforcement of the parking and other issues occurring all over the township, there needs to be paid enforcement. The township needs to create an ordinance and then enforce it. Empire took care of their parking problems at the beach and ticket cars parked illegally. Enforcement is the only way to solve our ongoing problems. I want to know the financials for the lighthouse. This is a business that had a \$12,000 profit from last year. I want to see someone overseeing the management of this money in addition to the current lighthouse manager.

Laura Johnson 3464 Kroupa

Has the township board given you any direction, is a township board member part of this committee, and how do you report information to the township board?

**Karczewski:** There are no township board members on this committee and this committee has been operating since mid-April of this year. We provide the township board with a monthly report.

Chris Rieser 1087 Lockmoor Lane

I am the Treasurer of the Dougherty Society and Secretary of the Old Mission Historical Society. To move us to management by the township board is to leave us without your support and voice. The township has not shown any interest in these properties they own and have treated us with benign neglect. We think the park committee can be the spokesperson to the township board for our organizations.

**10. Board Comments** The Parks Committee meets at 9 a.m. next Wednesday and all of the historical organizations and members are invited to attend.

**11. Adjournment** Swift moved that the meeting be adjourned with a second by Murphy at 9:45 p.m.

**Passed Unam**