

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Township Hall**  
**August 8, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Griffiths at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** - Griffiths, Snow, Skurski, Cornell Absent: Atkinson
4. **Approve Agenda** Snow moves to add Item J Forest Management at Lighthouse Park to the agenda. Skurski second. **PASSED UNAM**
5. **Brief Citizens Comments** Susie Shipman 14735 Shipman Rd.

The Traverse City School District removed the two soccer goal posts and now the Old Mission Peninsula School does not have any. There are extra goal posts at Bowers Harbor Park and Shipman requests that the ones not in use be given to the school. There are pieces of posts in disrepair that could be made into two usable goal posts according to Wilkinson. *Action-Motion* Skurski makes a motion that the posts in need of repair be considered surplus and given to the Old Mission Peninsula School and is seconded by Snow.

**PASSED UNAM**

Nancy Heller 3091 Blue Water Rd.

Requested to speak on item D was accepted. Heller wants to make sure the Park Commission understands what entering into an agreement regarding Kelly Park with the DNR demands. She highlighted some of the items under the Conditions and Requirements of the DNR. Item 4-Permittee shall maintain the area under Permit in a clean and orderly condition; Item 6-The rights accruing under this Permit shall not be assigned or transferred without written permission of the Department Representatives; Item 11-Permittee and occupants are responsible for the payment of all utility bills including water, electricity, gas, etc. Heller asks if the township knows if utilities exist at Kelly Park. Item 13-Permittee shall comply with all applicable (including but not limited to all environmental) laws, regulations and codes and will obtain any necessary Permits in connection with use of the Premises; Item 14-Permittee shall reimburse the Department for any repairs to the Premises resulting from

damage; Item 19-There shall not be any disturbance to survey corners and associated witness trees; Item 20 Insurance-Applicant shall furnish to the Department, prior to issuance of written permission, a policy of liability insurance which provides the following a) Names of Insured, the Applicant, its officers, employees, and agents. Heller asks what witness trees are and who the agents in the insurance policy are. Item 23-Cutting or Removal of Trees/Vegetation; Item 27-Damages; Item 28-Additional Requirements. Heller again requests that the Park Commission understand what this permit with the DNR involves before entering into any agreement.

**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.

Correspondence (if any, provided in packet)

Approve Minutes of 7/11/18 meeting

Treasurer's report and invoice list approval

Skurski moves that the Consent Agenda be approved and is seconded by Snow.

**PASSED UNAM**

**8. Business**

A. Park Clean-up Activities - Bill Ryan 2364 Twin Eagle Drive

Bill Stott 3193 Ogidaki Trail

Ryan and Stott are volunteer residents of Old Mission Peninsula who pick up trash once a month and cover four informal "pull-outs," the Lighthouse parking lot, and beach areas. From August-November, 2017, 23 volunteer hours resulted in 62 pounds of trash collected. From May-July, 2018, 40 pounds of trash was collected in 15.5 volunteer hours. The new trash receptacles in the main parking lot look good and are working to eliminate some of the trash. The recommendations are to prevent vehicles from pulling very far into the pull-outs by placing one boulder in each pull-out. This would allow one car per pull-out and the car would be visible to patrols. Recent fire remains and trash were found at the end of two-track (Old Mission Point Park) and is a party site with no means of policing the area. This represents a significant forest fire hazard. Some form of deterrent needs to be placed there.

The discussion concluded that 3 large rocks could be placed in the pull-outs to prevent drivers getting their cars back into the woods.

**Action-Motion** Snow makes a motion to have Wilkinson move three rocks from the Murray trail head to block the pull-outs for \$500. Skurski second.

Voice vote: Ayes- Skurski, Griffiths, Snow

Nay- Cornell

B. PNA DTE Tree Grant - Skurski/Melinda Jones

The Park Commission has received a \$1,500 grant to plant 15 trees due to the oak wilt remediation that occurred in Pelizzari Natural Area. Volunteers are going to be needed to plant the trees. Next month Melinda Jones will attend the meeting to provide more details. Skurski wants to get the process started.

**Action-Motion** Skurski moves that the \$1,500 grant be accepted and is seconded by Cornell.

**PASSED UNAM**

C. BHE - Tree planting plans - Skurski, Atkinson

There is \$10,000 in the budget to complete the Bowers Harbor Expansion Park boundary with trees. Atkinson and Skurski will report back to the board next month.

D. Kelly Park/The Moorings-agreement: DNR and Township -Atkinson/DNR Kasey Mahony

Kasey Mahony is the Cadillac District Supervisor for the DNR and discussed Kelly Park. The DNR refers to Kelly Park as the Old Moorings. The DNR purchased the property with the idea that the township would lease it from the DNR once a boat launch was created. After a series of public meetings, it was determined that what the community wants is a canoe/kayak launch. On August 23, 2018 from 4:30-7 p.m. there will be an open house at the Peninsula Township and Anna Marie Bower from the DNR will present the plan drawings and answer questions. This allows for there to be more public commentary. There will be a gravel parking lot and gravel trail down to the water. The DNR writes multiple use permits. The permit has not been written yet and is written by the Permittee. The DNR then must approve the request. As this is an undeveloped area, the DNR does not maintain the property. The Peninsula Township has expressed an interest in “dressing up the area” and can put into the permit that

specific areas of the property would be mowed. There are no utilities on the property. The reason for the boiler plate language in the permit is the DNR deals with many requests. For example, if a dam needed to be repaired and heavy equipment or dredging was needed, then this language in the requirements and conditions would be applicable. The \$50.00 fee would be waived for this project. Use permits are written for a maximum period of one year.

**Skurski:** We were wondering if the DNR would provide us with signage.

Mahony: That will be part of the presentation on August 23.

**Snow:** The DNR owns and maintains the boat launch on Center Road and also the boat launch at Bowers Harbor. Why are we being asked to maintain Kelly Park?

Mahony: My understanding was the township could not afford to purchase this land at the time and the DNR stepped in and purchased the land. The intention was that the township would then lease the land back from the DNR.

**Action-Motion** Skurski makes a motion to write the Permit document and to meet with the Peninsula Township and have something to present at the next Park Commission meeting. Snow seconds. **PASSED UNAM**

E. Signage for the east/west road at south of Lighthouse (No fires or camping) Atkinson Griffiths will go out to the Lighthouse and determine the number of signs that are needed for the pull-outs and two track and report back at the next meeting.

F. Mission Point Lighthouse Friends Report- Griffiths/MPLH

Ellen Kerr 14548 Bluff Rd

The next plan is to get involved with the grant process to have handicap access to the beach in front of the Lighthouse. She encourages the Park Commission to work with the Lighthouse Friends, Peninsula Township, and Community leadership. Every year we get more visitors. Would like to see a plan to improve the experience of the visitors which might include an interpretive center or an audio tour. The Historical Society has been involved in creating an audio tour. The Lighthouse structure is in good shape with the new windows, siding and roof and would now like to see the visitor experience enhanced.

G. Lighthouse Signage – Griffiths

Griffiths presents the design for signage to replace the aging 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel and Lighthouse Welcome sign. Sign needs to be 45' x 96'. Once the design is finalized, the sign creation will be put out for a bid. Schultz stated she has a bid from Image360 for \$1,041.41.

#### H. Lighthouse Manager's Report – Ginger Schultz 5877 Smokey Cove Drive

Yesterday was National Lighthouse Day and Schultz purchased 250 cupcakes and the Friends of Lighthouse handed them out to visitors. The grant money was received in the amount of \$43,420.02. There is a grant balance of \$1589.16 and as the process was started before Schultz was hired, she is not sure what the balance means. Attended the Lighthouse festival held at Whitefish Point Lighthouse and talked with other lighthouse managers. This year's gross is \$88,256.59 of which \$40,994 came from tours. There is a discrepancy between what the Peninsula Township shows in the Lighthouse account. Schultz will meet with the Township Finance Department to find why numbers do not match. 8700 people have paid for tours this year. The storage roof was completed and a load of gravel was placed in the parking lot where water pooled.

#### I. Maintenance Report – Bob Wilkinson 18426 Condor, Interlochen, 49643

All tasks on the project list have been completed except the trees at Bowers Harbor Expansion Park. Every time there is a storm, there seems to be trees that fall down or hang over a trail and the trails are requiring more management. The buoys ordered came quickly and will be installed at Haserot Beach.

#### J. Forest Management at Lighthouse Park- Snow

Snow, Griffiths, Schultz, and Wilkinson met with the Cook County Forester, Cameron Ross to gain a professional opinion regarding the state of the forest around the Lighthouse. They learned there should not be any cutting of trees from December to April to prevent the spread of disease. The recommendation was to get in touch with an arborist. Plan to work first on trees that represent a safety issue. Felt there are diseased trees surrounding the Lighthouse and the forest is not a healthy one.

**Action-Item** Snow makes a motion that he obtains bids from three arborists to address the safety issues regarding the forest. Second by Skurski. **PASSED UNAM**

### 9. Citizen Comments

Ellen Kerr recommends setting up a meeting with Brian Lejewski to decide how to make use of the oil house, where so much money was invested.

Nancy Heller 3091 Bluewater Rd. requests that people who present handouts to the group have enough for the entire audience. The report regarding the trash pickup is something all of the residents would be interested in. It would be good to have this in the packet that is placed on the website. The commission discussed at one meetings to have our deputy come out to explain what he can do to provide enforcement of some

of the items discussed here tonight. This is an important item for the residents to know.

Jane Boursaw 12875 Bluff- had a question on the Lighthouse 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel sign and wondered if it was damaged. The sign is iconic.

**10. Board Comments** Skurski: if we come up with a plan, we should get it into the grant process by November. The Haserot beach boat launch is not part of the conversation regarding Kelly Park. At one time there was a discussion of the DNR giving \$50,000 to improve the boat launch at Haserot beach and that dialogue appears to have ended. Playground equipment would be a good grant to go after.

**11. Adjourn** Skurski moves to adjourn and Snow seconds. Adjourn at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lola Jackson