

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Township Hall
February 5, 2020 – 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, Dreier, Murphy, Milliken (excused absence)
4. **Approve Agenda** Skurski proposed moving the Budget Recommendations after business item H. Karczewski wanted to include the grant request from the Traverse City Track Club.
Atkinson moved to approve the agenda with the recommended changes with a second by Karczewski. Passed Unam
5. **Brief Citizens Comments-for items not on the agenda** None
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 January 8, 2020
- B. Dougherty Mission Church – Manigold
- C. Lighthouse Manager Report (added to the packet)

A motion to approve the consent agenda with one change to the January 8, 2020 minutes was made by Murphy with a second by Dreier. Passed Unam

8. Business

- A. Volunteer Recognition-Friends of the Lighthouse

The Friends of the Lighthouse was dissolved in October, 2019 and the sum of \$10,900 was transferred to the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society for use on lighthouse projects. We would like to thank the Friends of the Lighthouse for all the years of service to the community and helping to make the lighthouse a vibrant part of this township.

Christopher Reiser 1087 Lockmore Lane

Many members of the Friends of the Lighthouse are also members of the historical society. The friends provided numerous volunteer hours working on projects at the lighthouse. This recognition is richly deserved.

- B. Budget Recommendations (Skurski)
- C. Playgrounds Update (Dreier & Karczewski)

Dreier: Karczewski and I made a proposal to the township board on January 14, 2020. The board wanted to see at least 3 different proposals and estimated costs before moving forward. I have set up appointments with 3 different vendors. Haserot needs to have the entire playground equipment replaced whereas Bowers Harbor Park could be done in sections.

Karczewski: I have been in touch with Carter Oosterhouse and his Carter Kids program. They use one of the largest playground equipment manufacturers in the US, who manage the project and

provide the volunteers. The way to get around the township requirement for 3 bids is to raise the money ourselves. If we could complete one of the projects at either Bowers Harbor Park or at Haserot Beach, this may help get others involved. The township had been willing to put up \$75,000 with an application for a matching grant in the recent past. Dreier and I will continue to respond to the information requested from the town board.

D. Master Plan Update (Murphy & Milliken)

Murphy: Now that the survey results have come back, the steering committee is moving into the guidance phase for the master plan. We will be meeting monthly. The steering committee is comprised of community volunteers, 2 town board members, and 2 planning commission representatives as well as Mielnik. The survey showed strong support for the creation of a non-motorized transportation plan with linkage to the parks and Mielnik put this as the number one key planning issue. From the survey there is a clear mandate the citizens care about the parks. Mielnik wants to get the master plan completed. The last master plan used 2006 data to create the master plan of 2011. Mielnek and the planning commission will write the master plan.

E. New Tree Plantings (Dreier)

Skurski: The DTE grant of \$3,500 is good through May, 2020. We have identified Bowers Harbor Expansion Park in the northwest corner where the trees could soak up a wet spot and the western border where the residents are as good places for tree planting.

Dreier: Perhaps we could get the citizens who live along the western border to provide water until the trees get established. Gater bags would reduce the amount of watering required.

Murphy: We did this at Pelizzari and we only needed two citizens, so there is a precedent for this type of help.

F. Kelley & Haserot Park Planning (Atkinson)

Atkinson: Manigold has been in contact with the DNR to rent, lease, or own Kelly Park. Jennifer Hodges of Gourdie- Fraser has been working on how to make a functioning, temporary boat launch at Haserot for the upcoming season. The \$5,000 insurance money could be used to come up with a temporary boat launch at Haserot. There are also engineering drawings be made of a boat launch at Kelly Park. There also may be a carry down kayak launch at Kelly, which is something the DNR was already considering. Discussions about a toilet at Kelly are underway. There is no resolution on the issue of parking yet.

G. Maintenance Report (Wilkinson)

Wilkinson: Asked questions about the status of the boat launch at Haserot, repairing the remaining picnic tables, and painting and treating the Bowers Harbor Park pavilions.

Atkinson: Handicapped parking signs are faded at Haserot Beach, the lighthouse parking lot, and Pelizzari and need replacement. Boxes to store the pickle ball nets need to be installed.

Dreier: Pavilion B is missing some roof shakes.

H. Lighthouse Report – Lighthouse Festival Request (Dahl)

Dahl: The Michigan Lighthouse Festival is August 7-8, 2020 and will take place at our lighthouse. The festival vendors need to have tents. A township ordinance prohibits tents from being erected and this ordinance is going to be changed to allow tents for one day usage. Extra parking is planned for the lot behind the garage and at the entrance to the park. Consideration is being given to making the entrance parking a permanent area. Gravel can be placed there in time for the festival and paving could take place later. Discussions are occurring to tear down the non-period garage and replace it with a more historically correct building. The intention is to use a newly constructed building on this site as an educational site with displays, videos for ADA and/or children, and a gift shop. A special

event application is required for use of the parking lot and this is under the purview of the parks committee.

Atkinson: The actions outside of the fence of the lighthouse are under our jurisdiction and the lighthouse committee needs to communicate with the parks committee before any action occurs.

Skurski: So we have money for a parking lot and vault toilets, which serve visitors but no money for playground equipment, which serves our residents? We need to meet with the lighthouse committee.

Karczewski made a motion to approve the special event application for the lighthouse festival.

Dreier seconded. The motion was amended by Dahl to get approval for the event setup from the fire department and was seconded by Atkinson. **Passed Unam**

Traverse City Track Club Grant

The grant request has to be in by March 15, 2020. The goal of the track club is to encourage running and walking to promote health, enhance fitness, family recreation, and competition for all.

Dreier moved to have the township apply for the Traverse City Track Club Grant asking for \$18,000 pathway improvement at Bowers Harbor Park. Atkinson seconded. Passed Unam

I. Parks Rep for Town Board Meeting

Skurski will ask to be put on the agenda of the town board meeting on February 11, 2020 to discuss the parking lots at the lighthouse, track club grant, and our budget request. Murphy will attend the March 11, 2020 town board meeting.

B. Budget Recommendations (Skurski)

The committee discussed the budget for 2020-2021 and worked to finalize the numbers to present to the town board.

9. Citizen Comments

Nancy Heller 3091 Bluewater Road

I attended the town board meeting when the discussion of the playground equipment purchase took place. The presentation was professional and you answered all the questions raised from the board. I want to encourage Karczewski and Dreier to continue pursuing the purchasing of the playground equipment. The lighthouse committee meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and anyone can attend. The vendors for the lighthouse celebration are for profit and they are there to make money. I encouraged there be participation from non-profit organizations as well. I was wondering if all the money had been used from the 2019-2020 budget. Please remember the lighthouse committee at this point are just discussions and I urge your participation before items get decided without your input.

Linda Keely 19535 Brinkman Road

In reading over the minutes from the town board meeting, it seems clear the board wants to raise the money for the playground equipment through donations. No, the township has the money and should pay for this equipment. Do not let the town board railroad the parks into raising the money. The township survey stated the parks are a priority and there was nothing in there about people wanting to spend money for a parking lot at the lighthouse for a 2 day event.

10. Board Comments

Atkinson: To get the support of the township board, let us invite them to any meeting with vendors for the playground equipment. I recommend contacting Manigold and Chown to attend the meetings.

Peninsula Township
February 5, 2020-Parks Committee
Lola Jackson Recording Secretary

Skurski: In looking over the 2019-2020 budget, it appears we were allocated \$30,000 for capital outlay and we have only spent \$5,600. If this is the case, the money must be spent and the bill paid by March 31, 2020. I will contact Kelly tomorrow to see if this is the case.

11. Adjournment Karczewski moves to adjourn with a second by Dreier.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.