

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City MI 49686
Phone: 231.223.7322 Fax: 231.223.7117
www.peninsulatownship.com

**Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Meeting
February 23, 2026
Minutes
3:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** by Murphy at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** C. Murphy, Caviston, D. Murphy, Chown, Gartland, Bruning, Zebell-excused
4. **Approve Agenda- Chown moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second by C. Murphy.**
Approved by Consensus
5. **Brief Citizen Comments (for agenda items only) None**
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 December 15, 2025 Parks Committee Meeting
 - B. 2% Allocation Grant Narrative for Final Report
 - C. Email Communication with BHP Pickleball Volunteers
 - D. Budget, as of December 31, 2025
 - E. Budget, as of January 31, 2026**Chown moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Bruning.** **Approved by Consensus**
8. **Business**
 - A. Presentation by Steve Lagerquist of the GTRLC about best practices-topic list at end of minutes with full written presentation talk transcribed in next month's packet.
 - B. Pelizzari Natural Area - Park Bench Request-the committee wants to establish a bench policy to address how many benches are actual needed in each park. This topic for next meeting. **D. Murphy moved to approve the bench request by Lisa Johnson to go at Pelizarri Natural Area, preferably near the hemlock area, but to be determined precisely after the boardwalk is complete. Second by Bruning.**
Approved by Consensus
 - C. Friends of the Peninsula Parks Sub Committee-The subcommittee acknowledged planning is needed for both routine tasks as well as longer term projects. Two questions were asked of the township attorney. Can members of the parks committee simultaneously serve as members of a non-profit friend's group? Yes, but the committee needs to be careful about quorums. If too many of the committee members show up for an activity, it might need to be considered a meeting. The second question was if the people who retrieved money from collection pipes need to be bonded? Yes, this was advised. The park committee members will need to find someone (s) who has the time and energy to get the friends organization up and running. Early next steps include creating email interest lists, trail monitoring roles, clear guardrails for volunteer activities. The committee recommended inviting people who are interested in volunteering to the next park committee meeting.

D. Donation Boxes- review of trail counter data, showing very high usage at Pelizarri Natural Area. Discussion of potentially relocating trail counters to gather more detailed access data. Comparison with other parks show proximity to town drives heavy use. Price information for donation pipes to be obtained. Bonding of individuals who collect money to be provided.

E. BHNA Update – Zebell to give her update at the next committee meeting.

F. OMPS Update- The history of the OMPS park is being put together by Debbie Jensen of the DNR. This will serve as part of the ongoing creation of the management plan. Signage mapping locations to occur.

G. Signage-all signage examples are in packet pages 50-74

1. Archie Park Update Signage

Chown moved to approve the Archie Park signage with the caveat that I won't pull the trigger for 24 hours so everyone has time to go home and read it and read it again. If there is awkward wording, if there's a misplaced comma bring it to my attention within 24 hours for final review with a second by Caviston. Approved by Consensus

2. Hunting Season Signage-will use DNR language for OMPS as hunting and hunting dogs are allowed off leash in this park.

3. Bowers Harbor Park Draft Information-reviewed historical information from Karen Rieser of the Old Mission Historical Society (page 71 of packet).

4. Old Mission State Park Signage-Old Mission State Park is owned by the State of Michigan and is managed by the Peninsula Township. Bruning obtained a DNR publication on "Park and Recreation Land Rules". Horseback riding, cycling, and hiking have all been allowed in the park. Change to any of these activities will require a public hearing. Reinforcement of the fact that the park's committee is a recommending body, not a final decision-maker for the township.

H. Schedule for 2026 Parks Committee Meeting Discussion about moving meetings to evenings (Wednesdays) at 7:00 p.m. rather than continuing alternating days. Chown to talk to Piehl, office manager, regarding township availability and committee will make an adoption motion at the next meeting.

I. Budget Update & Requests.

1. Update on FY 2026 C. Murphy-the FY26 budget on track. The apparent overruns are explained by special projects. This is \$65,000 for the Kelly Park Boat launch and \$60,000 for the non-motorized grant (which belongs under planning). Sanders, township supervisor, recommended moving the non-motorized money into a separate account and out of the parks budget.

2. Update on FY 2027- C. Murphy-FY27 budget planning underway with maintenance prioritized and major capital projects deferred. Pickleball court funding clarified. The township is responsible for maintenance of the pickleball courts long term. There will be a donation pipe located at the courts. Volunteer fundraising and sponsorships are encouraged for the pickleball courts.

9. Citizen Comments None

10. Committee Comments There are 2 bike fix-it stations in the township hall basement. One to be installed at Bowers Harbor Park and the other to be placed at Haserot Beach, which has a bike rack. Murphy brought his bow saw in for committee members to inspect. These could be used rather than chain saws.

11. Adjournment- Chown moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by C. Murphy. Approved
Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.