

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Township Hall
March 4, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** Dreier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Dreier, Murphy, Dahl, Milliken, Atkinson, (excused absences Karczewski, Skurski)
4. **Approve Agenda** Dreier requested the application from Laura Johnson regarding the Log Cabin Day be placed on the agenda after item G.

Atkinson moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the Log Cabin Day request.
Milliken seconded. **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 February 5, 2020
- B. Donation of Rocks – Manigold
- C. Donation of Hand Carved Bench-Manigold

Milliken moved the consent agenda be approved with a second by Atkinson.

Passed Unam

8. Business

- A. Playgrounds Update (Dreier)

Atkinson: The playground sub-committee, comprised of Karczewski, Dreier, and myself is working with 3 different vendors. The idea is to complete the project at Haserot Beach first and then move on to the playground equipment at Bowers Harbor Park. Estimated cost for Haserot is approximately \$35,000 and there is a donation to remove the existing equipment and a cash donation.

Dreier: I am planning to attend the town board meeting on March 11, 2020. By then we should have the bids from the different companies and our goal is for approval and installation by the time the summer season starts.

- B. Draft Budget 2020-21

The committee discussed the budget and talked about why Pelizzari has its own separate budget. Murphy passed out a brochure from the Center Road Park Millage Proposal passed in November, 2008, which is what funds a separate Pelizzari budget.

- C. Pelizzari Natural Area (Murphy)
 - a. Pets

Murphy: I have asked several people to attend tonight's meeting to discuss the issues regarding pets at Pelizzari and discuss potential solutions to this ongoing problem.

Lisa Sluis 7117 Logan Lane

People are not picking up after their pets and this shows a lack of respect for the park and our community. I have never seen a dog on a leash, ever. I have a group of scouts with me here tonight and they are ready with a clean-up program and community awareness ideas.

Murphy: We wanted to bring up the health and respect issues to inform the parks committee, the town board, and the citizens. The scouts, National Honor Society, and other children's groups can be approached in solving this issue. Children help in garnering media attention.

Atkinson: This is about changing human behavior. Whether it is signage, more trash cans, a separate area for animals to relieve themselves, warnings, or tickets, we need a change in behavior.

Steve Lagerquist 146 Blackridge Court

As a staff member of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, here are some suggestions I can offer that I have seen work in other communities dealing with this issue. You could have a contained area where animals have a place to go and then walk the trail. You are already providing the bags and trash to the pet owners. If you have enough signage, then you could have the police issue tickets and warnings regarding the lease law.

Laura Serocki 6924 Center Road

I walk the park regularly and spring is the worst time of year. Pets who wander off the trail in the winter may do their business and the owner cannot reach the area easily. When the snow melts, we can see this. I have visitors in the summer tell me how impressed they are with the park. Litter is not a problem.

Linda Keely 19535 Brinkman Road

I have never been to this park. However, if you have 2 spots with bags, why not have 4 spots? If you have 1 trash can, how about 2?

b. Clean-up/Maintenance

Murphy: Another campaign I have seen in other communities is for volunteers to mark with flags or biodegradable paint the areas where dog droppings are found to raise awareness of those walking the trails. We need to make this a messaging campaign as well as cleaning up the park.

c. Fencing

Murphy: There is money in the budget for fencing in one area of the park. This is also in the area where Consumers Energy has their utility easement and 10 years ago they clear cut this corridor. They put their trucks on park land. If they were to do this again, there would be significant damage to the tree plantings already completed and the fence. We are working with the township attorney on this issue.

D. Tree Plantings (Dreier)

a. Species

Dreier: There is a DTE grant expiring in mid-May.

A conversation occurred around determining the type of tree species to plant, enlisting volunteers, and completing the work in time to use the grant.

b. Adopt a Tree

Dreier: A section in Bowers Harbor Park is a place where trees are going to be planted. This is near the two track and split rail fence. The idea is to have homeowners adjacent to the park adopt a tree and commit to watering them until the tree gets established. Tree water gater bags could be provided.

D. Kelley/Haserot Update (Atkinson)

Atkinson: The township board has approved money to explore a plan for Kelly Park. Jennifer Hodges from Gourdie-Fraser was out last week taking depth measurements to determine how much dredging might be required at various water levels. Manigold wants to move fast on preparing a boat launch at Kelly for this summer. Discussions are taking place about having a temporary boat launch at Haserot Beach.

E. Maintenance Report (Wilkinson) None

F. Lighthouse Report (Dahl)

Dahl: The garage is going to be removed and replaced with a structure in the historically accurate location. An idea to replicate the life boat station on the beach is on hold due to high water. Creating an extra parking lot has been dropped. An overflow of parking in the summer is expected once again.

Log Cabin Day

Dreier: Laura Johnson has requested a use permit for the Log Cabin Day. The date is June 28, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Murphy moved to approve the Log Cabin Day request with a second by Dahl. Passed Unam

G. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting

Dreier: We have requested being placed on the agenda at the next town board meeting.

9. Citizen Comments

Nancy Heller 3091 Bluewater Road

Pelizzari was created through a special assessment by the residents. You want to make sure the water depth might not always be this high and needs to be taken into consideration with the proposed Kelly Park boat launch. The lighthouse and the Dougherty House are historical structures with real stringent rules surrounding their management. Volunteers with caps out at Pelizzari might help with the dog refuse problem. I have talked to the community police officer about this issue and he stated when he pulls up everyone reaches for their leashes. Perhaps the threat of not allowing dogs in the park might gain some attention. Give encouragement to the dog owners who are conscientious to talk to owners who appear to be ignoring the rules. I want to thank the the committee for all your hard work and not giving up in trying to get something achieved.

Linda Keeley 19535 Brinkman Road

Please remind Jennifer Hodges as she works on Kelly Park to include the ADA kayak launch the DNR had talked about installing there. Can you clarify what areas at the lighthouse are under the management of the parks committee?

Dahl: The area inside the picket fence is managed by the lighthouse sub-committee. The parks committee makes recommendations for the areas outside the picket fence to the town board.

John Sluice 7117 Logan Lane

When people go to Haserot they are going to the beach and when people go to Bowers Harbor they are going to a park. Perhaps this might change the approach in the handling of the playground equipment placement. Pelizzari is a fantastic park and monies are needed to ensure the area is properly maintained.

10. Board Comments

Dahl: I recommend we have a fire plan in place for all the parks. I think parks committee members should have business cards and hats so they can be easily identified when at a park. We can help in creating positive PR for our community and parks.

Atkinson: I suggest we invite the fire chief to our next meeting to discuss park fire plans.

Murphy: The planning steering committee meets the first Monday of the month to talk about the citizen survey results and makes recommendations toward the township master plan. The focus on transportation and the linking of the parks received strong response from the citizens. The issue of what we can control and what is mandated by the state legislature are important discussions taking place within this group. Tourism is definitely something affecting our parks and community.

11. Adjournment

Milliken moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Murphy.

Passed Unam

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.