

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**March 23, 2022**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**7:00 pm**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** by Zebell at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Shanafelt, Dahl, Karczewski, Zebell, Murphy, Milliken, Chown (7:10 p.m.).  
Excused: Skurski.
4. **Approve Agenda**  
**Karczewski moved to add a discussion of boot scrappers after Item E. on the agenda with a second by Shanafelt. passed unan**
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 March 9, 2022 Special Meeting
- B. Correspondence RE: Boot Brush Stations

**Karczewski moved to approve the agenda with a second by Murphy. passed unan**

**8. Business**

- A. LIAA Results & Recommendations (Cowell/Hicks)

The committee members discussed their impressions from the written comments in the citizen survey.

**Shanafelt:** the citizens placed a strong emphasis on bathroom facilities and drinking fountains. Bowers Harbor Park seems to be the jewel in the crown of the parks for many residents.

**Karczewski:** people noticed the lack of maintenance with the parks.

**Zebell:** people commented on why projects costing \$1,000 were treated the same as projects costing \$250,000. I live near Bowers Harbor Park and people commented on the deteriorating infrastructure and how this should be the showcase of our park system. Bathrooms were not available or the ones there are in bad condition.

**Milliken:** the distinction between maintenance and capital projects was highlighted.

**Chown:** there have been projects we said we were going to do and they never got funded. I never understood the Headley Amendment until this year.

**Dahl:** spoke to frustration of being limited by lack of human and financial capacity to accomplish park goals.

**Shanafelt:** I urge anyone who is watching to look at their tax bill to see how little money goes to funding township governance, and is approximately just 2% of the tax bill.

**Murphy:** the Traverse City Library receives 3% of our paid taxes, while only 2% stays here. This 2% funds the running of the township budget and the parks budget. 34% goes to public education, 7% goes to fire. I commend LIAA for the work they have done and the open houses were a bonus, but only 3% of our community took the online survey or attended an open house. This may be enough to tease out some statistical data, but it is not a random sampling of the township.

**Shanafelt:** all of the work to identify the right level of maintenance allows us to obtain more money from the township budget. The ARPA funds might allow some capital projects on the list and leverage grant money.

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The committee discussed the privately funded survey being conducted by John Wunsch for a potential renewal of the PDR millage, which is expiring. The survey will not have any park questions included. PDR money goes for private land purchases, not public land.

**Murphy:** I have done some research and the first 5 miles has 50% of the population and over 42% of the tax base. The only park there is Pelazzari and this does not garner much interest from people on the north end. I will say I am less opposed to having a bathroom at Pelizzari. However, this will become a rest stop for people going further up the peninsula, not just for park users.

**Matt Cowall LIAA:** This survey will probably not get park funding on the ballot for millage in 2022. This information can be used to update the 2018 Park and Recreation Plan and set the township up for a millage ask in 2024.

**Murphy:** we need to look at sequencing. A PDR millage is going to be on the ballot and we do not want to complicate the issue. If the current town board looks at the governance issue, this could push a parks millage vote to 2024. The winery lawsuit has disrupted both PDR and parks millage votes.

**Chown:** we are probably going to ask LIAA to help with the park plan update. Where do we go from here?

**Hicks:** the 2018 park plan needs to have goals and objectives updated. Recommended having accurate mapping of the parks to be included in the plan. Accurate maps aid grant applications. The plan requires one public meeting, which should be held with this group and then requesting acceptance of the plan at the town board meeting; that's another place for public input.

**Karczewski:** is this committee being effective?

**Cowall:** without some staff support at the township, the lack of human capacity along with budgetary constraints makes the work of this committee harder to maintain what park land the township already has and initiating capital projects. The work of this committee was critical to the in-depth feasibility report created as the final product. In looking at tax bills, 4 items come out of the 2%, fire, police, PDR, and township governance are paid by parcels. This begins to show the need for public education. The parks are funded using township dollars. When there is a fiscal down turn, parks lose out when spending is discretionary. I would hate to see such a talented group of people disband now. A millage is the most effective way to protect and expand parkland. Given this communities support for PDR, Pelizzari, and parks indicates a population in support of parks. More education of the township taxpayers is required.

2022-23 Parks Budget (Shanafelt)

**Chown:** distributed the latest town board budget. The amount for repairs maintenance is \$22,500.

**Shanafelt:** Shanafelt, Zebell, and Karczewski met with township treasurer Bickle, trustee Achorn, and clerk Chown and advocated for a part time parks manager and someone for tracking grants as well as the parks budget. Once the ARPA fund use has been determined, there could be more money for parks. The maintenance costs are estimated to be \$52,000 and that contract is currently out for bid. The parks budget is being funded from the cable and tower funds.

**Karczewski:** suggested using the \$11,000 donated to the parks with meaningful, practical, and visible projects such as a bike rack at Archie.

**Shanafelt:** the boot scrappers at park entrances are a good example. Send maintenance requests for your specific parks by March 30 to me and these will be ready to share with whoever wins the maintenance contract.

B. Pickleball Project Status (Milliken)

**Milliken:** 6 courts are possible in a 2x3 configuration south of the tennis court, but not 8. This placement makes sure no trees are cut. We paced this off with someone from Elmers. This will be close to the bathroom. This will move the basketball court, which is currently in disrepair, into a half court instead of full at the northwest corner off the tennis courts. This may be paid for by the pickleball group.

The committee discussed the pickleball court placement, storm drain install, playground safety, and playground placement. The township agreed to cover the pickleball court maintenance and will pay for the tennis court

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repair. The parks committee needs to put forward a plan, which then can have a required public meeting at a town board.

**Nancy R. Heller 3091 Bluewater Road** Make sure to have zoning in attendance at that meeting to make sure the plan conforms to zoning requirements.

**Chown:** enough time (15 day notice) is required to publish a public hearing announcement in the Record Eagle.

**Karczewski:** the 2018 park and rec plan lists under Action Plan 1. pickleball expansion, 2. resurface tennis court and reline for pickleball, 3. develop action plan for construction of new pickleball courts. Recommends meeting with the pickleball group in a work session and coming up with a plan for the town board.

C. PDR Update (Murphy)

D. Spring Work Bees (All)

Added: Boot Scrappers for Parks

E. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting: Murphy

#### 9. Citizen Comments

10. Board Comments None

11. Adjournment Karczewski moved to adjourn with a second by Shanafelt.

passed unan

The committee realized not all of the agenda had been discussed at 9:46 p.m.

Asked for citizen comments.

**Nancy R. Heller 3091 Blue Water Road** The township board has a habit of taking on more financial responsibility, such as maintenance and the budget is not adjusted. For example, the pickleball court maintenance cost is unknown, yet the board passed a motion to accept this cost and allow pickleball courts to be built. I read all of the packet material. Citizens need more information; our residents are well intentioned, and there needs to be more community outreach and education regarding parks. Our parks are an embarrassment; they are not safe, and not maintained. So before to go to all this effort, and yes, you have a private entity out raising money for pickleball courts, please consider the health, safety, and welfare of the existing needs of the parks. Do citizens want these amenities or do we just tear them out?

**Shanafelt:** 8% of capital cost of any given project can be used for an estimate of annual maintenance.

Adjournment Karczewski moved to adjourn with a second by Shanafelt

passed unan

Adjourned at 9:55 p.m.