

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
May 25, 2022
Regular Board Meeting
7:00 pm
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Skurski at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Approve Agenda** Murphy moved to approve the agenda with a second by Zebell. 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 March 23, 2022
 - B. Minutes from April 27, 2022
 - C. Parks YTD Financial Statement
 - D. Parks Chart of Accounts
 - E. Helsel's Tree Service Quote
 - F. Correspondence from Becky Chown: MDOT Work Schedule and Archie Signage
 - G. Correspondence from Bill Stott: Lighthouse Litter Pickup
 - H. Correspondence from Susan Curtis: Dog Rules at Bowers Harbor Park
 - I. Correspondence from James Castillo: Reserving Ball Fields**Karczewski moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Milliken. passed unam**
8. **Business**
 - A. Resolution for Pelizzari Addition (Murphy) Murphy introduced Clare Herman of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to speak on behalf of the resolution.
Clare Herman 2324 Sandwood Drive Traverse City
As a land protection specialist with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, I am here to support a resolution to purchase 15 acres of rolling hardwood. I would like to thank Dave Murphy for keeping up with the landowners around Pelizzari in seeking to purchase more land to expand the natural area. This has been a long standing project. So this particular action item would be a request for the parks and rec committee to support a resolution to recommend to the township board for the future addition of 15 acres to Pelizzari Natural Area. The land is upland forest with rolling hardwood topography. It is great for passive recreation. While this is not adjacent to Pelizzari, it is part of a longer goal of protecting the forested corridor that is north of Pelizzari. There are several different landowners that make up this 65 acre corridor. It is important to act now as you have a willing seller in this market. This is a finite resource and it is important to act when you have a landowner willing to work with the township and the conservancy. Recent studies have shown these large intact sites are important for resilience for climate change. They are important to let species move through the area without barriers such as residential structures and roads. Currently, residential structures are lining the roads and the corridor goes up the center. This type of corridor is rare, especially in a populated area such as Peninsula Township where the population continues to increase. The conservancy would like to secure

the property with an option agreement, which would then give us an opportunity to fundraise for the remaining portion of the purchase price. We are still in the negotiation phase, so it is still not a done deal. Upon closing, the property reverts to the township. There must be a conservancy easement so this property can never be developed in perpetuity. Even if someday the township does not own the property, it will never be developed.

Skurski: so the resolution is looking for the township to put up \$200,000. The millage that created Pelizzari set aside monies for additional land purchases and the fund currently has just under \$300,000. \$200,000 of this money will be used, so no money is required from the township. This is a great opportunity and Dave Murphy has worked on this for a long time with a number of other people.

Milliken: I used to walk that property regularly before there was any development and it would be such a shame to lose this opportunity.

Karczewski: the reason we do not have many questions is Murphy has keep us very much up to date on all the activities around this project as it has moved forward, so this is not a surprise to us.

Grant Parsons 6936 Mission Ridge: I support the resolution and by way of disclosure, I live alongside the Pelizzari Natural Area. The area has been managed without a glitch for all these years and there has not been one problem in the park. It was conceived very well and managed very well during the covid pandemic. You see the increase in usage; just look at the parking lot. People have discovered this and the recreational infrastructure on the peninsula has been an enormous value for everybody. I appreciate the area has been maintained in a natural state over all these years.

Tony Steeno 8195 Bel Cherrie: my family and I live near the boat launch on Center Road and use Pelizzari often. My boys and I enjoy playing and running through the woods and meadows. It is a real gem and to expand it only makes it more so.

Phillip Wilson 2570 Elks: My wife and I hiked through Pelizzari for the first time recently after living on the peninsula for 10 years. This park captures the beauty and open spaces of the peninsula. If we could add more to the park I am completely in favor of doing so.

Barbara Wunsch 17017 Peninsula Drive: I whole heartedly approve of this purchase. I want to thank Dave Murphy, the park committee, and the land conservancy in working together to make this project a reality.

Walter Meeker 274 McKinley Rd: we are excited to be a next door neighbor and be adjacent to it the way the grant is written. At the beginning when this park was first created, there was some apprehension of the adjacent land owners. However, the way this park has been run, the crowd control, and the management of the park allayed our fears. There is no apprehension of this addition and I strongly support this purchase.

Mike Dettmer 7003 Leorie Drive: we have lived here for 47 years. When my son and daughter visit, we always go to Pelizzari. I totally support the township and parks committee in the purchase of this property.

Don Atkinson 18403 Heritage Circle: as a former park commissioner and member of the parks committee, I commend the efforts to purchase these 15 acres by the township, conservancy, and the parks committee. This is a perfect example of protecting land for future generations. When you have the opportunity to secure priceless land, you need to secure it because it is hard to do
3 emails in support read at meeting (see end of minutes).

Murphy read the resolution for the acquisition of the land (included in packet).

Murphy: moved the PNA resolution be recommended to the town board for approval at the next regular meeting with a second by Milliken. passed unam.

B. Pavilion Reservation Request

a. Ron Dohm – 6/18/22 **Karczewski moved to approve pavilion request with a second by Milliken. passed unam**

b. Kelly Wallace – 6/26/22 **Karczewski moved to approve the pavilion request with a second by Murphy. passed unam**

C. Life Jacket Library at Haserot (Willow Myle-Nuffer) 722 East State Street: the idea is to have a rack with 10 coast guard approved life jackets for infants through 80 pound children. The ultimate goal is to get more kids in the water exploring and enjoying the lake and potentially having them learn to snorkel or scuba dive. There is no cost to the township. We are working to get grants and sponsorships for the stands and life jackets. We drop the stand and life jackets off at the beach, we maintain them, and keeps the library looking good. The goal is to promote water safety. The stand is portable and will be heavily weighted on the bottom. There are 48 life jackets on order and we hope they arrive soon. We are planning to have the libraries ready by the end of the summer or possibly next year. This gives us time to check into the zoning laws and be ready to go next year.

Nancy Heller: The first person to talk to is the zoning administrator and make sure the policies and procedures are followed.

Milliken moved to go forward with a pilot program with a second by Karczewski. passed unam

D. Haserot Water Sampling-Warning System (Skurski): this year we did some preliminary work with the county health department and they will be doing samplings on Thursdays. They test the water for contamination. We will be putting signs on both the north and south sides of Haserot Beach stating we have water testing. There are two levels: one is waiting a few waves and the other is do not enter. We would only have to pay if there had to be resampling due to a contamination reading. Usually this would come from septic systems or ducks. Wilkinson will be in charge of receiving the reports.

E. Archie Park Work Bee (Milliken): A 24” life ring has arrived and will be installed. Manigold has stated the parking lot might get paved.

There was a discussion about the pros and cons of paving the parking lot with a more impervious surface. There is cement square with a PVC pipe sticking up. Milliken did research to find out what this is and there is a potential this was part of a bathroom when this area was a dance hall. The next step is to have Wilkenson remove the PVC pipe, pour water down the pipe, and see if the water drains into the bay. This could then be used a drain as the water would be clean. This could also be a well head and in that case we would need to pour cement down it to avoid having an open well head. There are 4 dead trees at Archie and I am waiting for a call back from Parshall. This will cost about \$400-\$450 to remove them and as this is a safety issue Manigold said get it done. The conservation district is going to come out and give guidance as to what types of trees and bushes to plant. Wilkinson will install new chains on the swing set and the fence will be replaced.

F. DTE Tree Grant (Skurski): the committee is applying for the DTE tree grant of \$4,000. The grant paperwork is due by June 17, 2022. The township puts in \$4,000 or the equivalent in volunteer labor and DTE provides the other \$4,000. The trees will be divided 50% to Bowers and 50% to Archie.

Milliken moved to apply to the DTE tree grant with a second by Murphy.

Voice vote: Yes: Karczewski, Skurski, Zebell, Murphy, Milliken passed unam

- G. Bench Policy Change (Skurski/Zebell) the bench change is to add arms to potential benches for an additional \$110. Individuals pay for the benches, installation, and locations are selected by the committee. **Murphy moved to add the option for arms on benches with a second by Zebell. passed unam.**
- H. Items for Summer Newsletter (All): potential topics suggested were water sampling, activities at Archie Park, invasive species, definition of a natural area, no pruning branches within parks, Pelizzari land addition, and dogs on leashes.
- I. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting: Murphy to attend to seek approval of the PNA resolution.

9. Citizen Comments None

10. Board Comments Zebell: suggestion was made to get monthly update of pickleball progress, roofs to be power washed on the pavilions was on the long list of projects, but did not receive funding, the poor state of the bathrooms at Bowers Harbor and what to do to remedy this situation.

11. Adjournment **Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Karczewski. passed unam**
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.