

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
June 23, 2021
7:00 pm
Township Hall
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Skurski at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Milliken, Murphy, Zebell, Skurski, Dahl, Karczewski, Shanafelt, Chown (township clerk)
4. **Approve Agenda** Skurski requested Business Items B and C be moved to after Item F to give Wilkinson time to arrive.
Karczewski moved to approve the amended agenda with a second by Murphy.
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 May 26, 2021
Karczewski moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Milliken. Passed Unan
8. **Business**
 - A. Park Bench Request-Dawn Hemming
Skurski: The request is for 2 benches to be placed at Bowers Harbor Park for people waiting for an empty court or people just observing pickle ball games.
Murphy: We need a policy for benches in the parks. There is no issue that Bowers Harbor Park can benefit from more benches. Pelizzari is saturated with benches from my perspective. This is a prompt to decide how many benches to accept and their placement with the park system.
Shanafelt: Need to consider how and where the benches fit into the master plan update as well.
Murphy moved to approve the bench request with a second by Milliken. Passed Unan
 - B. Park Maintenance (Wilkinson)-moved
 - C. Consideration of Repair or Demolition of BHP Playground Equipment-moved
 - D. Pickle Ball Court Conditions-Skurski
Skurski: The tennis and pickle ball courts were redone in 2018. There are now cracks in both courts below the surface. There may be a warranty on the work performed and we are looking for the contractor information.
Chown: I will contact Jennifer Hodges of Gourdie-Fraser to go out and assess what work needs to be done.
 - E. E. Coli Testing at Haserot
Skurski: The drinking water fountain at Haserot Beach is being tested for e-coli over the summer season by the Traverse County Health Department. We also want to test the lake water as well and are working to set that up.

F. Park Ordinances Update-Skurski

Skurski: To update the park ordinance, first we need to go through the existing ordinance and add, clarify, or delete items. The parks committee then votes to approve and sends the updated ordinance to the town board for consideration and public comments. Three town board meetings need to include public comments before a town board vote. My recommendations for the updated ordinance include no overnight parking, camping or fires, closing hours, no motorized or non-motorized vehicles, and no unattended equipment vehicles.

Murphy: Would the ordinance be across all parks?

Skurski: There could be an umbrella ordinance and some specific rules for individual parks as needed.

Karczewski: As a committee, do we have the authority to amend an ordinance?

Skurski: The authority needs to be delegated to the committee by the town board as we are no longer an elected commission.

Milliken: The ordinance needs to include no moving of rocks or cutting down trees. The issue of banners in the interest of public health and safety within the parks still needs to be addressed.

Chown: Specific, concentrated requests with dates for banners or signs can be presented to the town board. The township ordinances are being updated and public comments are solicited for the next 3 town board meetings in July, August, and September. Now is the time to update the parks ordinance.

Park Maintenance (Wilkinson) B and C Business

Wilkinson: Only park general maintenance of trash pickup and mowing is occurring. Emergency pop-up items have been fixed. Increased on going cemetery activities are consuming most of my time; I have 8 burials over the next 5 days.

Skurski: The steel swing set by pavilion 1 needs to be taken out.

Wilkinson: I have been talking about the poor condition of the swing sets for years. All of the playground equipment have issues. The wooden swing set is border line. We need new equipment. The new benches at Bowers Harbor should not be placed directly under the trees to avoid sap drippings.

Skurski: I will text you the top 3 projects needed in the parks.

Dahl: Does the fire department have keys to every place that might be locked within the parks?

Wilkinson: Yes, they have keys and also the ability to crash through a gate or fence if necessary.

Dahl: We need a fire plan for all of the parks. I recommend going through each park with Gilstorff, township fire chief.

Skurski: We will extend an invitation to Gilstorff to attend one of our upcoming meetings.

G. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting – Murphy

9. Citizen Comments None

10. Board Comments

Murphy: I will write a paragraph explaining how the fire just outside of Pelizzari threatened the park itself.

Karczewski: On a trip into lighthouse park with a biologist, we found 5 black legged ticks. These are the ticks that may cause Lyme disease.

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Zebell: Investigating how to replace plastic bags for dog feces with something more biodegradable.

11. Adjournment Karczewski moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Murphy.

Passed Unan

Adjourn 8:45 p.m.