

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
July 28, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Township Hall

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Skurski at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call**
Present: Dahl, Karczewski, Skurski, Zebell, Murphy, Milliken; also present Becky Chown, township clerk, Fred Gilstorff, township fire chief, Bob Wilkinson.
4. **Approve Agenda** Skurski requested Business Item D be moved after Business Item A, and Wilkinson report comes after original Item D.
Murphy moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Karczewski. 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 June 23, 2021
 - B. Correspondence
 - a. Michele Zebell-Box and Bench placement
 - b. Howard VanHouten-Pickleball Courts
 - c. Pam Miller-Pickleball Courts
 - d. Linda Raetz-Pickleball Courts
 - e. Brian Kaplan-Pickleball Courts
 - f. Sara Bergsma-Pickleball Courts
 - g. Jennifer Hodges-Pickleball Court Analysis
 - h. Mike Skurski-Haserot Beach Testing
 - i. Mike Skurski-No Camping Signage at Kelley Park
 - j. Dave Murphy-Off leash dogs
 - k. Eric Dreier-Beech treatment at BHP**Milliken moved to approve the consent agenda; second by Murphy. Passed Unan**
8. **Business**
 - A. Fire Plan for Park Properties – Fred Gilstorff
Fire Chief Gilstorff gave a PowerPoint presentation (see end of minutes) and explained all of the resources available for fighting park property fires. The parks committee will work with the chief to create maps for the parks. These maps will become part of the fire response book.

Fence Repair at Pelizzari

Steve Lagerquist 146 Blackridge Rd.

The Grand Traverse Land Conservancy wants to install infra-red counters to know how many people are using the Murray Rd. trailhead and Pelizzari. This park usage data is helpful for grant writing. The repair of the fencing at Pelizzari should be constructed in such a way to funnel people into passing the counter. Wilkinson explained the cedar split rail fencing come in 10 foot lengths, which is too narrow for winter snowplowing. Need to design the repair to allow one post to be removed to create a big enough entrance for snowplowing.

Karczewski moved to spend up to \$4,000 for the repair to the Pelizzari split rail fencing and installing counters to measure usage with a second by Milliken. Passed Unan

Maintenance Report-Wilkinson repaired the water foundation at Bowers Harbor as the handle was stolen. The hoses at the Peninsula Township Cemetery were also stolen and a police report was filed. Water samples from the various beaches were collected and taken to SOS. Elmers Brian Peace is removing the damaged playground equipment from Bowers Harbor. There are 3 pending bench installations. The pickle ball net box will be moved. The baseball field is not being used and the little league has deemed the field unplayable. The field was seeded with clump grass, which grows in as clumps. The baseball hits the clump and can go off in any direction. To repair the problem takes about 5 seasons of aerating the field and planting the correct type of grass to eventually crowd out the clump grass. The little league used to have a contract with the township, which has long expired. Mowing of the field is in my contract, but not a repair to make the field usable. Contact names to the little league members to be provided to the committee. The pet waste stations are checked 3 times per week and usually emptied at least once a week. The dog station for the Murray trailhead needs to be ordered.

- B. Bowers Harbor Park Pavilion Reservation
 - a. Father Fred Foundation

Karczewski moved to approve the Father Fred pavilion use, second by Murphy Passed Unan

- C. Pickleball Net Replacement

Milliken moved to spend \$250 to replace a torn pickle ball net, second by Karczewski. Passed Unan

Skurski: Gourdie-Fraser gave us a report on costs to repair the damaged pickleball court. To replace the court is \$35,000. A \$4,000 expenditure each year would keep the court playable and safer. About 80 people are using the courts. The long term capital expenditure plan is to replace the court. The money donated by citizens for the parks could pay for the repair for this year.

Karczewski moved to spend up to \$4,000 to repair the tennis/pickleball court for this year, seconded by Zebell. Passed Unan

- D. Fence Repair at Pelizzari-(moved on agenda)
- E. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting-Dave Murphy

9. Citizen Comments

Wilkinson: There is an oak tree at the entrance of Pelizzari with one damaged limb from the last storm. The county is going to want to cut the portion of the tree hanging over the road. This is a tree that was treated for oak wilt. The tree needs to be monitored and sealed.

10. Board Comments

Zebell: the invasive species network put out information about a giveaway of boot brush stations. If you go to a park with a boot brush station and scan QR code and you might win a boot brush scrapper. The drawing is August 27, 2021. It would be good for our parks to start installing boot scrappers.

Skurski: I am meeting with Eric Dreier and Parshall tree service regarding the beech tree spraying in Bowers Harbor Park. Bill Stott is out spraying the proliferation of poison ivy in park areas.

Murphy: the master plan is nearing completion after 2 years of work. There is more about the parks than has appeared in past plans. I am wondering about the nomenclature of this body. We were a commission and are now a committee, so the signage in the parks is incorrect.

Chown: the place to start would be by contacting Meihn, the township attorney about potentially changing the name of this committee.

Karczewski: the name of parks and recreation would change the focus and make us more like an activity. Many of the surrounding areas such as Grand Traverse County and Garfield Township are titled parks and recreation.

11. Adjournment Karczewski moved to adjourn with a second by Murphy.
Adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Passed Unan

Peninsula Township Fire Department Wild Land Fire Response





Monitoring

The fire department monitors weather and ground conditions on a daily basis to prepare for potential wildfire. Equipment used to fight these types of fires are tested weekly. The department receives constant communications from the state DNR office that tells us whether burn permits are open or closed and what to expect for weather conditions and the potential for fire. The DNR is responsible by state statute to respond to all wildland fires in the state of Michigan and provide resources to the local jurisdiction that the fire is in.



Training and Preparedness

The Peninsula Township Fire department trains on wildland fires regularly and members visit the many parks within the township to be familiar with entrances and exits for the parks. The equipment that we use for fighting wildland fires is tested weekly. Daily checks are preformed to assure the equipment is on the vehicle and ready for use. Information from the DNR is distributed to the fire department staff when deemed necessary.



Peninsula Fire Department Equipment

Fire Engines

Water Tankers

Wildland Engine

Utility Truck with skid unit

Gator with skid unit

Marine 1

Peninsula Engine 3/Wildland Truck

Peninsula Engine 3



Equipment carried

- ▶ Water 750 gallons
- ▶ Pump 1000 gpm
- ▶ Turret gun on front bumper
- ▶ Pump and roll
- ▶ Shovels, rakes, brooms, foam, Indian packs
- ▶ Hoses and nozzles of varying sizes
- ▶ 4 wheel drive

Peninsula Utility with skid unit

Peninsula Utility 1



Equipment carried

- ▶ 2019 F-350 4 wheel drive
- ▶ Skid Unit insert
- ▶ 200 gallons of water
- ▶ 50 – 75 gpm pump
- ▶ Various hose and nozzles
- ▶ Shovels, rakes, brooms, Indian Packs

Peninsula Gator

Peninsula Gator



Equipment carried

- ▶ 70 gallons of water
- ▶ 50-78 gpm pump
- ▶ Various hose and nozzles
- ▶ Shovels, rakes, brooms, Indian packs
- ▶ 4 wheel drive , can reach tight areas
- ▶ Chain saw

Marine 1

Marine 1



Equipment

- ▶ Boat has a deck gun that is able to reach shore depending on water depth.
- ▶ Fire Pump
- ▶ Can supply water to shoreline via various hose sizes.

Additional Resources

- ▶ **DNR**- fire engine, bull dozer, air craft, man power
- ▶ **Neighboring fire departments**- water tankers, Kubota's, brush trucks, manpower.
- ▶ **MABAS- Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System**- If fire is extremely large and many resources are needed, MABAS can be activated for a Wildland strike team which will bring at a minimum of 5 brush trucks and manpower.
- ▶ **Grand Traverse County Sheriff**

Considerations for the Park Committee

- ▶ Assure trails are clear and free of obstructions.
- ▶ Have multiple trails so people have multiple exits in the case of fire.
- ▶ Clearly marked directions for trails.
- ▶ Keep fire lane clear in the lighthouse park.
- ▶ Remove dead and dry wood to decrease fire hazards when able.
- ▶ Do not allow any type of camp fires in any parks. Any signs of illegal camp fires should be dealt with quickly to deter any future camp fires attempts.
- ▶ Routinely check trails and parks for increased fire loads.