

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Township Hall
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 7 p.m.
Minutes

1. **Call to Order** Skurski called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Atkinson, Karczewski, Skurski, Dreier, Murphy, Milliken, Dahl (absent)
4. **Approve Agenda** Dreier moved to accept the agenda. Second by Murphy. **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 Aug 14, 2019
- B. Reports/Correspondence
 - a. Memo from Sara Bergsma

Karczewski moved that the consent agenda be approved with the correction of the dollar amount in the citizen comment from \$10,000 to \$9,940. Atkinson second. **PASSED UNAM**

8. Business

- A. Bike trails - Dahl (Skurski) Dahl attended a Traverse Area Recreation Trail (TART) meeting where the possibility of bike trails on the peninsula was briefly discussed.
- B. BH pickle ball nets – Atkinson

Atkinson: Two years ago the tennis courts at Bowers Harbor Park were resurfaced and four pickleball courts overlay one of the tennis courts. The township never purchased nets and the pickleball players provided their own nets. I would like to see the township provide nets for others.

Action-Motion Atkinson moved that four portable pickle ball nets be purchased for Bowers Harbor Park for \$720. Dreier second. Atkinson amends the motion to include \$500 for the cost of a storage box to make the total cost at \$1,200. Milliken second. **PASSED UNAM**

C. ReLeaf visit - Dreier/Murphy

Dreier attended a 4 hour seminar hosted by ReLeaf. Use of an arborist was highly recommended. Oak wilt remediation by either pruning or cutting should begin no sooner than November 1 through the end of February. Use of treegators increased the success rate by 90%. There are several methods to protect beech trees. There are a grove of beech trees in the north east corner of Bowers Harbor Park. ReLeaf will be here September 10, 2019 from 6-8 p.m. discussing the oak wilt issue. Dreier will attend. Most of the oaks in the township are the type susceptible to oak wilt.

- D. BH tree evaluation – Skurski

The recommendation was to identify an arborist that could work with the entire peninsula park system and obtain a contract.

E. Haserot Beach sand – Skurski

The last storm eliminated the berm and stagnant water at the beach.

F. Buildings and Grounds Director (Wilkinson) Absent

G. Lighthouse Manager Report (Schultz)

Schultz met with the township deputy regarding fires, camping, and bad behavior in the lighthouse park. Cameras and signs stating No Camping-No Fires Allowed: Activities monitored by video cameras are being installed this week. Tour sales increased \$11,059 through August 31, 2019 from the previous year. The keeper program is almost full for 2020. The TripAdvisor rating for the past two years is 4.5 out of 5.

H. Park Recommendations to TB - Skurski

- a. Joint Meeting – the board is looking to schedule a joint meeting with the park committee at the end of September.
- b. Feedback – the township clerk acknowledged receipt of our recommendations.

I. Park Visits schedule

The parks committee planned to meet at the following parks:

Haserot Beach and Kelly Park- September 6, 2019 1 p.m. Meet at Haserot.

Bowers Harbor Park- September 10, 2019 2 p.m. Meet by ball park

J. Project Priorities- Skurski

Skurski: As the committee moves through the park visits, the committee will look at the master plan to rank the priorities.

K. Township questionnaire – Skurski

Milliken: September 10, 2019 is when the questions need to be finalized. Currently, the average time to complete the phone survey is 25 minutes.

Murphy: The current survey contains six areas related to the parks.

L. OMP Student interface –Dreier

Dreier: We can work to make the school active partners with the parks. He volunteers to make contact with the school to set up some agreed upon joint events.

Karczewski: Recommends programs to get students out into the parks such as a parks passport program.

9. Citizen Comments

Jane Boursaw 12875 Bluff Road

I have been receiving questions regarding the party spot out at lighthouse park. There have been reports of bonfires, trees being cut down, and camping. I walk on the trails regularly and do not want to feel unsafe. Whose jurisdiction does enforcement fall under? Has there been any talk of locking the gate into that area?

Schultz: I had a meeting with Abbring (Deputy), Sanger (Enforcement Officer), Deeren (Director of Zoning), Manigold (Supervisor), and Gilstorff (Fire Chief). The area is in Grand Traverse County and they do not provide enforcement within the park. Manigold said the gate should not be locked.

Skurski: The lease for the property belongs to the state and the DNR needs to be contacted. The sheriff can enforce the law on no fires and no camping. I will talk with Manigold about this.

10. Board Comments

Action-Motion Atkinsons makes a motion that the fire plan for the parks be requested. Murphy second. **PASSED UNAM**

Action-Motion Karczewski moves that Dreier become the vice chair. Atkinson second. **PASSED UNAM**

11. Adjournment Karczewski moves to adjourn. Milliken second.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.