

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Township Hall
October 2, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** Skurski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Dahl, Atkinson, Dreier, Skurski, Murphy, Karczewski, Milliken (excused), Mielnik (Planning Director)
4. **Approve Agenda** Skurski added B1 to the agenda regarding the meeting with the town board and a brief discussion on the email received from the Hueft family regarding memorial benches was placed under item F.

Action-Motion Moved to approve by Karczewski with a second by Dahl.

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 September 4 , 2019

B. Reports/Correspondence

a. Email from Becky Chown/Workplace Training

b. Email from Josh Hueft/Memorial Bench Donation at Lighthouse Park

c. Email from Jim & Frances Krupka/Unleashed dogs

Action-Motion Murphy moved to accept the consent agenda with a second by Dreier.

PASSED UNAM

8. **Business**

A. Haserot/Kelly Boat Launch Update and Committee Role (Skurski)

Skurski: The township turned down the matching grant for the Haserot Beach boat launch. Manigold has contacted the DNR regarding establishing peninsula township ownership or lease of Kelly park. The DNR response is expected in one or two months.

Atkinson: We can still move ahead now in talking about the parking situation, the playground equipment, and the issue of sand at Haserot Beach. If the township has control of Kelly Park in the next several years, we could begin looking at potential scenarios. We should look at what we want and then go after the grant to help fund our vision. The vision should drive the grant seeking instead of the other way around. We need engineering at Haserot to propose what to do with the boat dock.

Action-Motion Atkinson made a motion to recommend the township board expedite their planning process of Haserot Beach Park and Kelly Park. Dahl seconds.

PASSED UNAM

Murphy: Our site visits to Haserot Beach and Kelly Park on September 6, 2019 were helpful in discussing these issues.

B1. Skurski: I met with Manigold and it was agreed Chown, Bickle, and Manigold from the town board would meet with three members of the parks committee to review our roles and responsibilities. **Action-Motion** Murphy moved the 3 officers Karczewski, Skurski, and Dreier be the members of the parks committee to meet with the members of the town board. Second by Karczewski.

PASSED UNAM

B. Planner Update (Mielnik)

a. Review of Rec Plan

Karczewski: I want to know how this informs our work as a committee because we have not referred to the Recreation Plan as we sit here and discuss what our needs are. How can this help us move forward and how do we make any changes to the plan?

Mielnik: The 5 Year Recreation Plan is a requirement by the State of Michigan and the DNR. The plan asks the township to establish the priority for the parks and was adopted in 2018. This has a 5 year life span. Any grants have to be conforming to the plan. There is also the ability to amend the plan with the state and there is a procedure. I recommend reviewing the plan to see if these actions are still a priority.

Atkinson: To get the playground equipment for Haserot Beach and Bowers Harbor is something we have been talking about for more than a year and I would like to see us take action right now.

Skurski: In creating the Recreation Plan, the second highest item wanted by the public was updating the playground equipment. The township could put money toward this project. I would like to see this in next year's budget.

Karczewski: The Recreation Plan is 116 pages long and is on the township website. We have each taken one park to be responsible for and we can begin to work on the issues in the plan. Perhaps we could review the plan and come up with the top 5 priorities for the next 12 months and divide up our energy to accomplish these top goals. Murphy suggested members write a brief description of the history of each park, which is not in this plan. The town board had discussed better signage for the parks as well as the entire peninsula and that is not in the plan either.

Atkinson: We need to establish a firm line of communication with the town board. We have discussed issues and make recommendations and hear nothing back. These are in the minutes from our meetings, but we do not know if anyone is looking at them. I think the playground equipment needs to be addressed now. Asks Mielnik what comes next

Mielnik: You would create a bid package if the amount is over \$10,000. You describe what you are looking for specifically, ask if this includes installation, and make sure you are comparing apples to apples.

Dreier: I would like to see the playground equipment replaced at Bowers Harbor Park and Haserot Beach. There is also some equipment at the lighthouse that needs to be removed and perhaps not replaced. This can demonstrate our capabilities to the town board and the citizens of the peninsula. Karczewski and Dreier are going to focus on the playground equipment.

C. Bowers Harbor Park Tree Management (Dreier)

Dreier: Milliken and I met with an arborist and a forester in Bowers Harbor Park. When we outlined our goals to them, the first item was safety. The second goal was to maintain the health of the trees that are there. We also want to maintain the aesthetics of the park. The trees right now are pretty

healthy. The trees were numbered. The Parshall Tree Care Experts proposal separates the costs into tree removal, tree pruning, and tree cabling. We should move ahead with this proposal. They also recommended spraying the beech trees. This would last about 8-10 years. This would require closing down the park for a day.

Atkinson: We want the cost of the treatment of the beech trees and the amount of money potentially that could come back by lumbering the maple wood.

Action-Motion Karczewski moved to accept this proposal of \$5,400 and send it to the town board for action with Dreier investigating the harvesting of the lumber and beech tree spraying costs. Second by Atkinson.

Voice Vote **Ayes** Dahl, Atkinson, Dreier, Skurski, Murphy, Karczewski

PASSED UNAM

D. Forester/Arborist Contract

Karczewski: The township is working with an arborist and I will confer with Mielnik.

Dreier: My understanding is that a forester looks at multiple uses of trees including timbering and income. An arborist works with environmental pods of trees or single trees.

E. Unleashed Dogs (Murphy)

Murphy: Jim and Frances Krupka wrote the email seen under correspondence and are in attendance tonight. The issue of enforcement plays a role in the solution. One potential answer is to establish a dog park. The problem is primarily at Lighthouse Park, Bowers Harbor, and Pelizzari and is a growing problem. Pelizzari was established as a natural area and it would be difficult to create a dog park there.

Jim Krupa 16100 Smoky Hollow Road

This year marked a tipping point with a significant increase in people with dogs not on leashes. This occurs where we walk up at lighthouse park. My wife was pushed off the trail by large dogs twice this summer. We did not come here to recommend a dog park. I would like to see signage, publicity, and awareness.

F. Buildings and Grounds Report (Wilkinson) absent

Skurski: The pickleball nets have been purchased and are in the little league shed ready for next summer. Regarding the Heuft family letter inquiring about memorial benches, we have a policy on those. I will put the Heuft family in touch with Dahl, who is the contact for the lighthouse park grounds.

G. Lighthouse Manager Report (Schultz) Posted Report

H. Park Committee roles-Status

a. Assignment of Park Committee Member Terms

3 years for chair (Skurski), 2 years vice chair (Dreier), 3 years secretary (Karczewski)

2-2 year terms- Atkinson, Murphy

2-3 year terms- Dahl, Milliken

I. Park Visit Schedule

Lighthouse and Lighthouse Park – October 11, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Pelizzari – October 23, 2019 1 p.m.

9. Citizen Comments

Nancy Heller 3091 Bluewater Road

Peninsula Township
October 2, 2019 Parks Committee
Lola Jackson Recording Secretary

I am encouraging you to read the Wayfinder/Logo proposal that has been tabled. This is the proposal just for the design and not actual signage. Money was spent last year on signage and when you talk about signs, this proposal is not the way to go. I think that spending \$9,940 for a design is not necessary.

10. Board Comments None

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

PASSED UNAM

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.