

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Township Hall**  
**October 7, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order** Dreier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Atkinson, Milliken, Murphy, Dahl, Karczewski, Dreier (Skurski excused)
4. **Approve Agenda** Item F will a replaced with a discussion on Haserot Beach.  
Atkinson moved to approve the agenda with a second by Milliken. **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 July 1, 2020  
Karczewski moved to approve the minutes with a second by Milliken. **Passed Unam**
8. **Business**
  - A. Bowers Harbor Park Walkway Maintenance (Skurski)  
**Dreier:** Manigold and Skurski identified Black Magic Asphalt and Repair to seal coat and crack repair the path at Bowers Harbor Park. The cost is \$5,340.  
**Atkinson moved to proceed with the restoration and repair of the Bowers Harbor Park pathway with a second by Dahl.**  
  
**Karczewski:** Before moving forward we have \$2,500 in the budget for repair and maintenance. The repairs for the pathway exceed the budget so we need a plan to handle the shortfall.  
  
**Atkinson moved the repair and maintenance park committee budget be amended to cover the \$5,340 for the repair of the path at Bowers Harbor Park. Dahl seconded.**
  - Roll call vote:** Ayes-Atkinson, Dahl, Karczewski, Dreier, Murphy, Milliken **Passed Unam**
    - B. Archie Park Damage-Status (Milliken)  
**Milliken:** The township lawyer settled with the owner who damaged the hillside above Archie Park for \$5,046. Four trees, 10 shrubs, plants to attract butterflies, and the top soil are covered for replacement.  
**Dahl:** Does this settlement include the time the lawyer spent on this? While the lawyer is retained by the township, his hours should be added as well as the labor for planting.  
**Milliken:** I will discuss this point with Manigold on how to address these two costs.
      - C. DTE Tree Grant (Dreier)

An agreement was reached to extend the DTE Tree Grant until the end of the year. The grant is for \$3,000 with a match from the township. The approximately 40 trees will go to Bowers Harbor Park. Garden Goods is the recommended vendor for the project.

D. Maintenance Report (Wilkinson) Absent

E. Parks Fundraising (Skurski)

**Atkinson:** Several months ago a meeting was held with Skurski, Karczewski, Atkinson, Milliken, Mielnek, Manigold, Achorn, Chown, Shipman, and O'Keefe. The discussion focused on building a clear understanding of how much money was spent in the past 3 year on parks. This committee needs a comprehensive budget plan to fund the park projects. The parks and cemetery maintenance have been underfunded while park usage has increased. An examination of what has been accomplished and how to pay for projects going forward is needed. We want to explore various methods of fundraising for the bigger projects such as the playground equipment at Bowers Harbor Park. This group should continue to meet with discussions centered on fundraising.

**Dahl:** Recommended starting a 501(c) (3) with voluntary members assigned to each park or having a park ranger.

**Karczewski:** I went on the record as being opposed to a non-profit organization. Non-profits have their own set of by-laws and report to a board. This would be an autonomous group separate from the township. This park committee needs to determine the role we have in relation to the township.

**Murphy:** Knowing the financial situation for the township would help in fundraising. My recommendation would be to initiate a method for collecting donations at the parks.

F. Committee Effectiveness Evaluation (Skurski) discussion will be at the next meeting.

#### **Haserot Beach update**

**Atkinson:** The new playground equipment is being installed this week, replacing the previous 30 year old structure. Brian Peace donated his time to remove and grade the area for the new playground equipment and has been a continuous, vital participant in the ongoing projects at Haserot Beach. Hodges from Gourdie-Fraser and Atkinson walked the shoreline at Haserot and talked about removing grasses and bushes along the shoreline. The DNR stated there will not be a motorized boat launch at Kelly Park and now the DNR has come back to the township to continue discussions.

G. DNR Trust Fund Proposed Changes (Dreier)

A proposed constitutional amendment to allow money from oil and gas mining on state-owned lands is on the ballot. In the past a strict ratio existed for acquisition of properties and less for development of the acquired land. There is currently a cap on the money at \$800 million dollars. The ballot proposal would increase that amount.

H. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting

The next meeting of the town board is on October 13, 2020. Dreier and Atkinson will attend to discuss progress by the parks committee and future project financing.

#### 9. Citizen comments

Linda Keeley 19535 Brinkman Road

This parks committee is doing a great job and do not become discouraged. To see where the money is going within the township, look at the township newsletter. There is a pie chart on the first page that shows the distribution of funds.

#### 10. Board Comments

**Murphy:** The peninsula community survey showed an 80% strong interest in a non-motorized transportation plan to be included within the township master plan. Cycling and walking have become a safety issue along the roadways. One area to explore is working with the Traverse City Recreation Trail (TART) and the Cherry Capital Cycling group as well as other stakeholders. While TART cannot take the lead on this project, they can assist with their knowledge and ideas for moving forward. This is a much bigger discussion than just about the parks. A working relationship needs to be reestablished with the County Road Commission.

**Karczewski:** The peninsula never had a railroad system and much of the TART trails now exist along those old rail paths. Consumer Energy has easements on peninsula land, but not sure this is a viable solution. Further discussion is required.

#### **11. Adjournment-**

Karczewski moved to adjourn with a second by Murphy.

**Passed Unam**

Adjournment at 8:45 p.m.