

Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Meeting
October 20, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Lola Jackson Recording Secretary

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP
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**Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Meeting
October 20, 2025
MINUTES
3:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** by D. Murphy at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** C. Murphy, Bruning, Gartland, Zebell, D. Murphy, Caviston, Chown, Saunders-Peninsula Township Supervisor
4. **Approve Agenda** Chown moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second by C. Murphy.
Approved by Consensus
5. **Brief Citizen Comments (for agenda items only)** None
6. **Conflict of Interest** None
7. **Consent Agenda:** any member of the committee, 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 August 25, 2025 Parks Committee Meeting
 - B. Email Correspondence from Bowers Harbor Pickleball Group
 - C. Budget, as of September 30, 2025**Chown moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Bruning.**

Approved by Consensus

D. Murphy wanted to make sure Gartland was identified as the Archie Park contact.

8. Business

A. Parks Millage/Capital & Operating Budget Discussion-the committee is waiting to see the full results of the citizen survey regarding resident interest in a parks millage or other funding mechanisms. D.Murphy requested the supervisor to come and speak about the citizen survey.

Maura Sanders Township Supervisor- 33% of the citizen surveys have come back. I recommend the parks committee move ahead with discussions of funding options. These are our parks. We can see from the traffic and the lighthouse tours and donations, our parks and the state park are used. The lighthouse tours generated \$115,000 this fiscal year. This committee has a fully robust, improvement plan and please continue to move ahead looking for grants, donations, and interested parties.

The committee talked about alternative income options for the parks (donations, fees, etc.) Tamper-proof donation box designs and costs for installation at parks as well as QR codes or Venmo are potential possibilities. Committee members will bring back fundraising ideas to the next meeting. The LIAA study of 2022 and the Master Recreation Plan of 2023 contain much of the information which can be used to update the Master Recreation Plan for 2028. This represents a significant savings to the 2026 parks budget.

B. Park Volunteering – Chainsaw Training Update- Parshall Tree Service offers a chainsaw training for \$600.00. Discussed how to fund the chainsaw safety training for volunteers and discussed potential funding options (wish list, donations, budget, participants pay.). The training would be held in the spring. The committee will investigate the possibility of having safety gear and equipment in the “library of things” at the Peninsula

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Township Library. The committee has invited volunteer members of the Sleeping Bear Dunes to come speak next month at the parks meeting. Sleeping Bear Dunes has built an excellent volunteer program.

C. PNA – Hemlock Boardwalk Update- the hemlock boardwalk project continues to move forward. The materials will have to come through the main parking lot and cause some trail disturbance. Once the project is done the trail will be remediated. Richard Hager is working on 3 separate 1-acre parcels to be restored to natural meadows. The process is mowing, followed by an herbicide application to kill the seed mass, and then seed the area this fall.

Next Steps-coordinate herbicide application and seeding project, including signage and volunteer scheduling. D. Murphy asked for several committee members to volunteer to be in attendance on the day of the herbicide spraying.

D. Nonmotorized Transportation Committee Update- review draft non-motorized transportation plan and participate in upcoming public engagement sessions. The township received \$77,000 in total to work with the McKenna consulting group to come up with a motorized plan. Susie Shipman from the Planning Commission is heading the committee. One idea is to establish a Mapleton loop, which would include the township offices, peninsula school, and the library and perhaps to Bowers Harbor. Clarify budget lines for non-motorized projects and ensure proper allocation.

Maura Sanders Township Supervisor- once the citizen survey report is completed the town board, is planning to conduct another public engagement session and we have money for that. This will occur in early November, 2025.

E. Friends Group Conversation-covered under B.

F. Archie & BHP Signage- Chown presented some sample signage from Image360 (see samples at the end of minutes). One signage issue is the number of semi-trucks and tractor trailers loaded with equipment parking overnight at Pelizarri. The police officers are not comfortable writing tickets because there are no signs stating no overnight parking.

Next steps: standardize signage colors and designs across parks, coordinating with the conservancy and DNR as needed. Address specific signage needs (welcome signs, kiosks, historical panels, rules, no overnight parking). Monitor signage budget and prioritize parks with the greatest need for new or updated signage. Caviston made a list of the agenda items for the November 17, 2025 meeting. The topics to include are the final version of the of Archie Park sign design, a draft of the Bowers Harbor Park signage, and other advancement of signage design for the remaining parks.

G. Budget Requests

1. Menards Rebate-the committee decided to use the Menard's rebate of \$345.58 for needed supplies, possibly chainsaw safety gear or other park needs.

Chown moved to approve \$147.69 to cover the freight to ship the Bowers Harbor Park bike fix-it station to the township with a second by C. Murphy.

Roll call vote: Yes-Chown, C. Murphy, Caviston, D. Murphy, Zebell, Bruning, Gartland

Passed Unanimously

Zebell gave a history of the goat project at Bowers Harbor Natural Area that occurred last summer. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians provided a grant of \$19,600. While the township pledged \$10,000 to make up for a shortfall of a canceled federal grant, the tribe only billed the township \$5,700. The parks budget is set up in line-item categories. C. Murphy and Zebell will meet with Katie Clark, the township treasurer, to finalize the budget line-item transfer from the GOAT project to another area of the parks budget. Caviston will start asking parks committee members their agenda items for upcoming

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meetings, budget expenses, and hours volunteering. Keeping track of volunteer hours will aid in next year's budgeting

9. Citizen Comments None

10. Committee Comments -Zebell brought up people parking at Bowers Harbor at night, where the parks are supposed to be closed at dusk. There might be an opportunity for Bata Buses or another company to take people to the lighthouse. A resident reported a tree at Haserot Beach that might pose a peril. The cleaning schedules for all the bathrooms were discussed. How often the bathrooms are pumped needs to be investigated as this is a separate issue.

11. Adjournment- Chown moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Caviston. Approved by Consensus
Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.