

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Township Hall
November 4, 2020 – 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** Skurski, Milliken, Dreier, Murphy, Karczewski, Dahl, Atkinson, Mielnik (township planner)
4. **Approve Agenda** Request to move agenda (Item E) Expansion of Pelizzari to come after (Item B) Park Fund Raising.
Karczewski moved to approve the amended 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 October 6, 2020
 - B. Haserot Beach Permit

Atkinson moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Dreier. **Passed Unam**

8. Business

A. Planning Update: Non-Motorized Transportation and TART

Mielnik: Last fall a peninsula township citizen survey was conducted. A question on the survey stated “Would you support a non-motorized plan for the peninsula” and received an 80% positive response. The master plan steering committee has been working for a year to establish a community engagement platform based on the survey. We have designed a website called Participate Old Mission. Citizens can post comments, open a map to point out areas of interest or concerns, share stories, and potentially improve community engagement. The goal is to continue the conversation as to what citizens want in this community.

(A viewing of the beginning of the Participate Old Mission website was presented). The master plan is required by the state. A 5 year recreational plan is mandated to apply for grants.

Chris Kushman

Kushman appeared as a representative for the Traverse Area Recreational Trail (TART). TART offers assistance in helping communities who express a desire to establish non-motorized transportation, be it hiking trails or bike through ways. The method TART uses is one of a public and private partnership to raise funds. One way is to use the road right of way, which is 33’ off of center and 75’ off center for larger roads. There is the possibility of using a portion of a utility easement or obtaining an easement from a private land owner. The optimum is to work with a 20’ easement for trails on private land. Direct acquisition of land is another possibility.

Murphy: What has been your experience working with zoned agricultural land?

Kushman: We have had good success in this area. The Leelanau Trail was established in 1995 and goes through agricultural zoned land. The initial concerns by the landowners were issues of

trespassing and stealing of fruit. These have not materialized. We have used methods such as vegetative barriers, fencing, and signage to keep the trails separate from landowners and these have proved effective. This partnership has worked for both the farmers and the users of the TART trail system.

Bill Danly President Cherry Cycling Club

I got involved in this organization because of the safety issues around cycling and shared road usage. There are 2 scenic rides per week on the peninsula. There is less traffic the further one goes toward the lighthouse. There are safety talks before each ride about common courtesy on the road. Road signage is encouraged to remind people this is a shared road and to remind all traffic to slow down. This year bike rentals were up 20% and bike stores sold most of their bike inventory. Bike ridership is increasing and we are working to ensure all users of the roads are safe.

B. Parks Fundraising (Skurski)

a. Projects, priority, and costs

Skurski: The trustees of the township are recommending setting up a charitable organization where the donations would be tax deductible. Capital project funding would come from the fundraising taxable donations. Maintenance costs would not be part of the capital expenditures. We need to have these projects, priorities, and costs ready for the budget discussions in February, 2021. An initial starting point document is in the packet.

b. Donation Tubes (Dreier)

Dreier: Donation pipes cemented in the ground are quite expensive. Dougherty House has a sturdy metal donation box with a strong padlock. We need to think about who collects the money and what type of fund would the donations go into. These donation mechanisms are primarily aimed at non-peninsula residents who are coming to use our parks.

Dahl: A collection box was installed at the lighthouse. The lighthouse manager will be contacted regarding how much money was collected through donations.

Expansion of Pelazzari (Item E)

Murphy: There was an over collection of the millage designated for Pelazzari. A legal opinion stated the intention of the millage is for additional land acquisition. Back in February one land owner expressed interest in selling their property; however, the land is not adjacent to Pelazzari. Ten other landowners that are nearby or adjacent to Pelazzari were contacted. Two landowners were interested, but are not adjacent. Two others are directly adjacent and one has potential interest in the long term. We discovered one parcel is going to be developed.

Mielnik: South of the Wildwood subdivision is a property being developed. This is not a special use permit and meets the requirements of the zoning ordinance. We are working to have a pedestrian easement at the end of the cul-de-sac to the south long term. There is a property in between the development and access to Pelazzari. I wanted to bring this to your attention in regard to long term planning for this area. In this type of work, you need to step away from the current ownership and see there is potential for an easement to run along a drainage ditch. This would keep people from having to go through multiple properties to access Pelazzari. This proposed development will be on the November 16, 2020 planning commission agenda and then put before the town board.

Murphy: One of my duties in the creation of Pelazzari was to make sure the surrounding property owners were treated well. There have been trespass issues and we have tried to address them. I

appreciate Mielnik in bringing this development issue to our attention. As a parks group, we do not have much say over private property usage.

Atkinson: Do we need to act soon regarding the person who is interested in selling their land?

Murphy: One party is very motivated. This property acquisition would not only expand the park, but would actually enhance the park. This is valuable land and the \$300,000 could be used as seed money and potentially fund the rest of the purchase through grants.

C. Evaluation of Park Committee structure and future requirements. (Skurski)

Skurski: I sent a self-assessment evaluation form to the members of this committee. This will help clarify our role. This group wants to be thinking about the budget process and be ready in February, 2021 for that discussion.

D. Recent Park actions - playground, tree planting, BH walkway, Archie Tree damage (Skurski)

Skurski: People gave us positive feedback about the playground at Haserot Beach and wonder when Bowers Harbor playground will be replaced. The tree planting in Bowers Harbor using the DTE matching fund grant was completed. The sealing of the walkway at Bowers Harbor was completed and a 10 foot section was replaced where tree roots were pushing up under the pathway.

Milliken: At the last meeting the question was raised regarding if the cost of the lawyer and labor was included in the monies collected for the damage done to the hill above Archie Park. The lawyer legal fees are paid for by the township retainer and if the money does not cover the labor, we can go back to them.

E. Possible expansion of Pelizzari (Murphy) (Moved in the placement of the agenda)

F. Possible Expansion of Archie (Skurski)

Skurski: There is a possibility land to the north and west of Archie Park may be coming up for sale.

Mielnik: The township assessor has been asked to split the land parcel and this typically means a sale. However, there is a Property Development Right (PDR) on the property, which would need investigation.

G. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting

Skurski: The next town board is November 10, 2020 and Murphy volunteered to attend.

9. Citizen Comments None

10. Board Comments

Skurski: People who want to know what is going on with the parks committee can read the minutes or watch the video

11. Adjournment Karczewski moved to adjourn and Milliken seconded. Passed Unam

Adjourned at 8:58 p.m.