

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Township Hall**  
**November 6, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order** Dreier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Atkinson, Dahl, Karczewski, Dreier, Murphy, Milliken, Skurski (excused absence).
4. **Approve Agenda**  
*Action-Motion* Milliken moved to approve the agenda with a second by Atkinson. **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 2, 2019
  - B. Reports/Correspondence
    - a. Town Board Amended Resolution for Parks Committee
    - b. Board Training Session: Tuesday, Nov. 19 @ 1:00 pm

*Action-Motion* Karczewski moved to approve the consent agenda with two corrections to the minutes. Murphy second. **PASSED UNAM**

**8. Business**

A. Governor William G. Milliken & the DNR Trust Fund (Dreier)  
Dreier took a moment to recognize the contribution of the visionary leadership of Governor William G. Milliken to the establishment of the DNR Trust Fund. Milliken passed away several weeks ago.

B. Visits to Pelizzari Natural Area and Mission Point Park  
Murphy will provide a list of priorities for the Pelizzari Natural Area to the committee. There was a discussion regarding paving the parking lot at Pelizzari. Dahl, Milliken, and Dreier recapped the meeting at Mission Point Park with members of the committee.

**Dreier:** I believe both Pelizzari and the Mission Point Park are undercapitalized and represent an opportunity for the community and for this committee to rectify and upgrade the parks.

C. Buildings and Grounds – Immediate Maintenance Needs

- a. Swing Set at Bowers Harbor Park  
A tree has fallen on an old steel swing set and damaged a section. Skurski had suggested investigating the possibility of filing an insurance claim.

**Action-Motion** Karczewski moved the township file an insurance claim for the damaged swing set and move toward the goal of swing set replacement in the spring or early summer. Atkinson seconded. **PASSED UNAM**

After an insurance appraiser has viewed the damage, the damaged swing set presents a safety issue and needs to be removed. Wilkinson can be contacted directly for items within a park. Any money that comes from an insurance claim should be put toward new playground equipment. Karczewski and Dreier comprise a sub-committee working on replacing the swing sets in all the parks.

**Dreier:** Each member of our committee has been assigned a park. Creating a maintenance list of what routine upkeep needs to be performed at each park is valuable and helps create an ongoing process and schedule.

D. Mission Point Lighthouse Parking Lot (Dahl)

**Atkinson:** Projects which require a large capital outlay need to be deferred to the lighthouse committee that was recently appointed. The parking lot in the winter is primarily for people snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Summer is a mixed use between visitors to the lighthouse and individuals who hike the trails and use the beach. The costs of paving the parking lot should be shared as part of the lighthouse expense.

E. Parks/Town Board Update on Park Responsibilities (Dreier/Karczewski)

a. Lighthouse Committee Role

**Karczewski:** Dreier, Skurski and I met with Manigold, Achorn, and Chown, who now comprise the newly formed lighthouse committee. Dahl was added to represent the parks committee. The lighthouse committee has scheduled meetings with Schultz, the lighthouse manager every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is at the lighthouse and includes a visit with a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The responsibility of the lighthouse committee is for all issues inside of the lighthouse fence. Dahl can provide a report to the parks committee each month. The lighthouse manager's report now goes to the lighthouse committee and will be included in town board meeting packets. Schultz will no longer attend the parks committee meetings.

**Murphy:** The new structure of the parks committee with the backing of the town board has given us more power. For example, the issue of Consumers Energy doing damage to the Pelizzari Natural Area is now being investigated by the township attorney.

A discussion ensued regarding the creation of an action plan for each park with a budget request attached. Once the community survey has been completed, the information can be used to create 1, 2 and 5 year goals. The Recreational Plan is a 5 year plan and was created about two years ago. The 5 year plan can form the basis of annual plans. The dog park and the wayfarer proposed projects may need to be set aside for several years to give other issues greater importance. The swing sets need to be a top priority. The grant cycle is April 1, 2020 and the committee wants to have their projects identified before the joint town board meeting on December 17, 2019. Money can come from the enterprise money as well as grants and donations for park projects.

**Murphy:** I recommend that a member from the parks committee be present at each town board meeting to give a report. As the parks committee is comprised of 7 members, we could take turns going to the town board meetings.

F. Establishing Park Priorities

a. Set date for Work Session

The committee will meet on November 25, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. to prepare for the joint meeting with the town board. Members need to look at the Recreation Plan and come prepared with suggestions and priorities for their assigned parks. Additional issues can be finalized at the regular parks committee meeting on December 4, 2019.

b. Joint Meeting with Town Board: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

F. Park Visit Schedule

Archie Park is a BATA bus stop and a bus stop for the peninsula school. A park visit was set for immediately after the work session on November 25, 2019.

**9. Citizen Comments** Linda Keely 19535 Brinkman Road

People use the swing set at Archie Park and should be included in your replacement plan. I attended a town board meeting and the enterprise money is being considered for the new fire station between Swaney Road and Tompkins Road. This committee needs to fight for some of that money. Citizens of the peninsula get value from two items, the parks and the fire department.

Elmwood Township playground off of Cherry Bend Road and Northport Lighthouse Park have excellent, newer playground equipment. Haserot Beach playground equipment should be replaced. So many parts that playground equipment is comprised of wood and splinters are a problem. Why was the dock at Haserot Beach allowed to be washed away and be destroyed? This was not responsible and the dock should have been removed.

Jane Boursaw 12875 Bluff Road

I wrote a story in the Old Mission Gazette about hunting and trapping in the township parks. If you are walking the trails on any Old Mission Peninsula park except for Pelizzari, hunting is permitted. I recommend people wear their bright orange vests. The lighthouse park has hunting allowed as does Brinkman bog. If it falls under DNR regulations, then trapping would be allowed. This could affect dogs that are off lease. Some signage needs to be placed out there to forewarn people. The township is not listed on any DNR map that shows where hunting is allowed.

**10. Board Comments**

**11. Adjournment** Milliken moved for adjournment with a second by Karczewski.

Adjourned 9:35 p.m.