

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
December 14, 2022
Regular Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** by Zebell at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Butler, Dahl, Zebell, Milliken, Murphy. Excused absence-Chown, Skurski. Attending Cram-Peninsula Township Planner.
4. **Approve Agenda Milliken moved to approve the agenda with a second by Murphy. passed unan**
5. **Brief Citizens Comments (for agenda items only)** 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 November 16, 2022
 - B. Memo from Barry Hicks, LIAA "Peninsula Township Parks Plan: Mission, Goals, and Objectives, Action Plan" – November 16, 2022
 - C. Correspondence from Bill Stott "Annual Poison Ivy Spraying Report" – November 17, 2022
 - D. Correspondence from Becky Chown "DRAFT version of new park regulation ordinance" – November 17, 2022
 - E. Correspondence from Dave Murphy "Two Items with PNA" – November 28, 2022
 - F. Correspondence from Bill Stott "Lighthouse Area Litter Collection Summary 2022" – December 7, 2022
 - G. BHP Expanse Pledge Card
 - H. Grand Application Cover Letter to Grand Traverse Band Tribal Council**Moved by Murphy and seconded by Butler to approve the consent agenda. approved by consensus**
8. **Business**
 - A. Parks Ordinance Update – **Jenn Cram:** Thank you for giving me the opportunity to look over the park plan document. There is some subjective language needing to be changed for the purpose to clearly allow enforcement of the parks ordinances. We are working with our attorney and LIAA to make the language more objective rather than subjective.
Murphy: what about the kiosk at Pelazzari and the permanent benches within the parks?
Cram: I can see if the definition of structure from the zoning ordinance covers these items in the parks.
Murphy: as there is only one trash receptacle in Pelazzari and dog waste has been an ongoing problem, could we include adding placing dog waste in the receptacle or taking the waste with you language in the ordinance? The other item is if park committee members are in a park performing trail maintenance, which might include trimming some branches, are we covered by liability insurance?
Cram: we need to check with the attorney as to your liability coverage since you are working on behalf of the township.

Murphy: another issue in Pelizzari is the placement of a hammock between two trees and sometimes it is evident people have spent the night and had fires. Others have just left ropes and steel hammock frames behind.

Zebell: my concern is new trails might be formed to get to areas where these hammocks can be placed and are disturbing the natural vegetation. How do we enforce any of this without the proper signage that clearly is missing in the parks?

Cram: this is an important point. There may be an ordinance, but that does not mean people know what it says. The parks definitely need better signage.

Murphy: the signage should be welcoming and not only a sign that says you can't do, you can't do that. There needs to be some language about what you can in the park as well.

Cram: I will report back the concerns raised tonight. Time is of the essence, so please send me any further comments via email by tomorrow.

Murphy: Consumers Energy is doing tree cutting along their utility easement corridor in the near future. The last time they did this they moved large equipment into the area by cutting through Pelizzari. Trees were damaged, cut down, and the path caused damage to the landscape. Our past attorney was supposed to get a settlement, but that never occurred. Perhaps we could get ahead of this by having a meeting with them before the work begins.

Cram: I will look into having a meeting with Consumers.

Zebell: we will wait for you to let us know if the park ordinance will be presented in January, 2023 or February, 2023.

B. Current Grant and Funding Efforts – Dave & Michele

Murphy: Becky (Chown) is working on the Sparks Grants.

Zebell: Isaiah Wunsch approached me to have as many people as possible write letters of support for the Bowers Harbor Expansion Grant. There is a story about the Bowers Harbor Expansion Grant in the Old Mission Gazette and a link to a pledge card. The money pledged will only be needed if the grant is obtained. The letters should be addressed to the Peninsula Township Board of Trustees.

C. Newsletter – Dave

Murphy: Ronessa (Butler) has been collecting ideas for the upcoming township newsletter, so if you can get them to me I will flesh them out and get to Becky (Chown) for the newsletter. We will probably want to mention the parks ordinance update and pick some key highlights. Becky wants it by January 4, 2023. If I could get your input around Christmas, that gives me a week to put it together. I will send each of you a rough draft.

D. 5 Year Master Plan – Barry Hicks

Hicks: here is the timeline we are on to have the 2023 Parks and Recreation Plan completed and submitted to the DNR by February, 2023. There needs to be a notice for public comment posted on the website and in the Record Eagle. Public comment is scheduled at the January 10, 2023 township board meeting. The board must vote on a resolution of plan acceptance. I have already provided the unsigned resolution document to the township clerk. Once the resolution is affirmed, the minutes from the meeting and the resolution need to be submitted along with the affirmed plan to the DNR.

The committee discussed the Parks and Recreation draft and pointed out items to clarify. The money from the lighthouse stays within the lighthouse budget and cannot be spent on resident use parks. This is going to be clarified by creating a separate spreadsheet for the lighthouse. Any mention of the parks commission from the 2018 plan needs to be changed as this is now an appointed committee and not an elected board. Individual park acreage will be included. ADA Accessibility requirements were reviewed. Any further comments or corrections need to be sent immediately to Hicks.

The draft of the 2023 Peninsula Township Parks Plan can be found on the township website under Documents for both the township board and the parks committee webpages. A joint meeting of both the parks committee and the township board is scheduled for January 10, 2023. Public comment on the 2023 Peninsula Parks Plan is scheduled at the beginning of that upcoming meeting.

Cram: I want to briefly update this committee as to where the master plan stands. The former planner did get the document out to regional agencies with a date of December 8, 2021 and those agencies had 60 days to respond. The deadline was in February, 2022. None of the agencies responded. I did receive upon my arrival a copy from Laura Serocki, who went through the plan in great detail. The clerk and I will be working together on finalizing the document. The 2021 document was created using InDesign and it is now a PDF. We have not been able to locate the InDesign file yet and this makes adding the amendments and corrections difficult.

The township received a grant to look at shoreline resiliency and LIAA is writing a new chapter to be included in the master plan. There will probably be another public meeting where we share the amendment, it is vetted, and then inserted into the plan. My goal is to have the master plan adopted in the first quarter of 2023.

9. **Citizen Comments Nancy R. Heller 3091 Blue Water Road:** this is in reference to the use of hammocks in the parks. The first thought in my mind is health, safety, and welfare. What is the liability for the township? The signs referencing designated parking are not effective and people usually just park where they want. I have had some strange conversations with people about the safety reflectors that have been installed along M37. A bicyclist, runner, or walker's reflector could be mistaken as a road marker and not as a person. A flashing light provides better protection to differentiate between a road marker and a person. In your upcoming public hearing presentation, less is more.

10. **Board Comments**

Milliken: Cherry Capital Cycling does have a grant and we are going to apply to hopefully have a bike repair station at Archie Park by the summer.

Murphy: there is an informal access point to enter Pelizzari from Mission Ridge. This property has changed hands and the new owners are looking at the various options open to them in providing continued access. If building an ADA path in the hemlock section becomes a reality, equipment would ideally enter the park from Mission Ridge. Discussions are underway to formalize legal access.

Zebell: Bill Watson contacted me about using goats in Bowers Harbor Park. There are no matching funds required from the township and I am going to fundraise for this project. Skurski asked me to leave you with this question: if money were no object, what is the one project you want to see addressed as a parks committee?

11. **Adjournment Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Milliken. passed unan**
Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.