

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

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**Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Meeting
December 15, 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, Caviston, D. Murphy, Zebell, Chown, Gartland, Bruning
4. **Approve Agenda: Chown moved to approve the agenda with a second by Gartland.**
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 October 20, 2025 Parks Committee Meeting
 - B. Minutes from November 17, 2025 Parks Committee Special Meeting
 - C. Poison Ivy and Autumn Olive Control Report
 - D. Budget, as of November 30, 2025**Chown moved to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second by C. Murphy.**
Approved by Consensus
8. **Business**
 - A. Friends of the Peninsula Parks Conversation

At the November 17, 2025 parks meeting, there was a presentation by the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes and the Friends of the Peninsula Library. The parks committee continued their discussion of forming a "friends' group" to help with fundraising and park management. There was a conversation about whether the committee itself should initiate this group. As the parks committee is an appointed body through the township, this would not be possible. The friends' group should be citizen-led, as seen with other organizations like Friends of Sleeping Bear and the Peninsula Community Library. The group discussed the importance of identifying motivated individuals to lead such efforts, emphasizing the need for coordination and ongoing connection between the committee and any new group. There are both needs for "boots on ground" and fundraising. There is recognition that different parks have unique needs, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not work. Some parks may benefit from individual fundraising or development directors, while others might need separate friends' groups.

Next Steps: D. Murphy, Zebell, and Gartland will meet to continue furthering the concept of a parks friends' committee.

- B. Donation Boxes

The cost of a donation pipe is \$533.76 and the concrete base and installation costs \$500.00 totaling \$1,033.76. The township could have Wilkinson do the installation. Potential locations are Pelizzari, Haserot Beach, and Bowers Harbor Park. This would require a bonded person to empty the pipes several days a week. The group decided to put this on the wish list for now.

C. Parks Wishlist

Committee members provided a wish list for insertion in the next newsletter to highlight specific needs and encourage targeted donations. Bower Harbor Park-Caviston: new teeter-toter and sand box plastic toys. Old Mission State Park-C. Murphy: sponsor chain saw class. Bowers Harbor Natural Area-Zebell: seeds, air boxes, quality compost. In general, donation boxes and ways to increase visibility of volunteer opportunities and park needs through regular email, newsletters, social media, and event sign-ups. D. Murphy has requested Steve Lagerquist from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy attend the February 23, 2026 meeting at 3:00 p.m. Lagerquist's topic will be the management of natural forested areas versus the notion of forests as harvestable. The members of the Old Mission Historical Society, the Old Mission Lighthouse, Dougherty House, Jane Boursaw, and members of the general public are invited.

D. Old Mission State Park Management Plan Update

C. Murphy reported work continued on the Old Mission State Park management plan in coordination with the DNR. The DNR is researching the history of the park for the management plan, thus saving the township money.

E. Park Bench Policy & Requests- the bench policy needed to be reexamined. The question of placement, numbers of benches, handling of aging benches was discussed. The committee reviewed the bench application form. There needed to be language added that says "in consultation with the parks committee and the township maintenance official." **Chown moved to approve the Memorial Park Bench request by Melissa Franklin with a second by Caviston. Approved by Consensus**

F. Signage

1. Sub Committee Updates-the sub committee went over the created signage (see pages 26-37 in the packet). The committee discussed each of the signs and made adjustments. The goal is to standardize sign language and park rules across all parks and referencing township ordinances. The changes made during the meeting will be taken to Image 360 for updating and the next iteration will be presented at the upcoming park meeting.

2. Archie Park -discussed in sub committee updates and used as example.

3. Welcome Sign for Pelizzari Natural Area – included in sub committee update conversation.

G. 2026 Newsletter Articles- newsletter topics include the upcoming installation signage at Pelizzari and Archie Park, the progress of the sustainable trail at Pelizzari, the Old Mission State Park management plan, autumn olive, wish list, and the introduction of the new park committee members.

H. Budget Requests-there were not any budget requests. The budget (packet page 38) will be reviewed with the township treasurer this week. There is a rebate due to the parks for \$345.58 from Menards.

9. Citizen Comments-none

10. Committee Comments

Zebell: requests Devils Dive Road parking area to Bowers Harbor Natural Area not be plowed in the winter. Twenty trees, 10 white and 10 red pines, were planted. **D. Murphy:** appreciates help with the budget, agenda and packet planning. Would be open to another person being the chair in the future.

11. Adjournment: C. Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Caviston.

Approved by Consensus

Peninsula Township
Parks Regular Committee Meeting
December 15, 2025 3:00 p.m.
Lola Jackson Transcribing Secretary

Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.