

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
TELEPHONE (616) 335.3050

July 16, 2008

Held at Sanctuary Woods

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Linda Howell called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Sall, Linda Howell, Karen Simmons, Chuck Strabbing, Kelly De Witt, Ray Buursma

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Canaan

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting. Following discussion, the minutes were approved as submitted.

ARTICLE III. TREASURER'S REPORT - - Chuck Strabbing

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of June 2008. Maintenance: Heavener Property Services - \$298.00, Advantage Building Maintenance - \$110.00, Veldhof Septic Service - \$200.00, Heavener - \$605.00, Allegan County Sheriff's Dept. - \$149.00; Contracted Services: Gene Teusink - \$155.00, David Buursma - \$125.00, Julie Buursma - \$125.00; Electricity: Consumers Energy - \$8.00. Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was filed.

ARTICLE IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. PRESS ARTICLES

1. Holland Sentinel – The Sentinel ran articles on the Old Township Hall move and the proposed Disc Golf Course at Shore Acres Park.
2. Linda Howell submitted articles for the Township Newsletter and also to the Observer to promote the Laketown Township parks.
3. Linda expressed gratitude to Michelle Sall for her contributions.

B. Wolters Woods

Michelle Sall reported receiving a verbal communication from the neighbor across the street from Wolters Woods commenting that he had been mowing the grass and ditch areas at the entrance of the park. Michelle asked if this is typically done by Heavener. Chuck Strabbing responded that it is done on work days at the park but otherwise left in its natural state. Following discussion, the Commission agreed to ask that Heavener mow this area once a month.

Al Meshkin reported having received a call from a resident complaining of the trash at Laketown Beach after the 4th of July holiday. Michelle Sall stated that she had been there recently and thought the park looked clean of trash. She also noticed a visitor that had picked up trash along the beach area.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORT

- a. Al Meshkin reported that he continues to pursue getting electricity at the small house on Huyser Farm. Until that is done, there can be no further progress on the proposal for having a live-in maintenance person on the farm.

Linda Howell provided job descriptions for three levels of maintenance positions for review and future reference.

Al Meshkin reported that no further information is available on the request for a cell tower placement, although title searches have been done by the contractor on additional properties in the Township.

- b. Chuck Strabbing had no information to report from the Township Board meeting.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. HUNTING REGULATIONS

Karen Simmons asked for feedback on the email she had previously sent with information concerning the proposed bow hunting guidelines at Huyser Farm. Michelle Sall commented that it was a well thought out proposal. Linda Howell asked if there would be a need to qualify potential hunters prior to the lottery process and whether or not a license is necessary in order to qualify. Kelly DeWitt did not feel it is necessary to have a qualifying process. Karen Simmons expressed concern over the wooded area noting that it is unmarked and very dense which would make it difficult to determine the location of other hunters. Chuck Strabbing stated that bow hunters typically do not over populate in areas. Michelle Sall suggested a sort of networking with contact information for fellow hunters. Karen Simmons suggested separating the farm into sections of blueberry field, open grass area, the pond area and dune area and then assigning the hunters accordingly. Al Meshkin thought it might be best to see what kind of response is solicited to better determine appropriate allocation of space. Karen Simmons will speak to the owners of Graafschap Hardware to ask if they would be interested in helping to coordinate the orchestration of the Huyser Farm hunting proposal. The hunting would have to be open to the general public and not exclusively for Township residents because the property is public land.

B. PARK WORK DAYS/VOLUNTEER DAYS

The next work day is scheduled for Monday, July 28, 6:30-8:30 PM at Sanctuary Woods.

C. PARK COMMISSION ELECTIONS – No update.

D. REHAB OF SMALL HUYSER FARM HOUSE

As noted above, due to the delay in electrical support there is no update.

E. PARK MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE

The position is on hold until the status of the small Huyser Farm house is determined.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of getting the blueberry fields cleaned up after the season has ended. Chuck Strabbing suggested a sort of rotor tiller to clean between the rows of bushes. Kelly De Witt will check with his contact and get a quote on the work that needs to be done.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 20 at Laketown Beach. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

ARTICLE X. ASSIGNMENTS

Karen – Check with owners of Graafschap Hardware on their interest in participating in the Huyser Farm bow hunting plan.

Kelly – Get a quote on clean up of the blueberry fields at Huyser Farm.