

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

June 17, 2009

HELD AT THE FELT MANSION

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson 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, Bill Snyder

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Nick Otting – Parks Maintenance
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

See comments noted below.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. Following discussion, the minutes were approved with correction to the meeting date.

ARTICLE IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of May 2009. Maintenance: Veldhof Septic Service - \$150.00, Gary Molengraff - \$440.00, Advantage Building

Maintenance - \$110.00, Nick Otting - \$595.00; Contracted Services: Joyce Teusink - \$150.00; Electricity: Consumer's Energy - \$15.00; Supplies: Lowe's Companies Inc. - \$409.00; Capital Outlay: Star Excavating Inc. - \$7,627.00. Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was filed.

Chuck Strabbing noted that the gatekeeper charge should be categorized under Contract Services and not Salaries. Al Meshkin will see that the correction is made.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Staff

i. Al Meshkin

1. Disc Golf Course – The course has been prepped by Heavener. Ben Barton has purchased the baskets. Once the cement has had time to cure, the baskets will be put in place. The first round of golf is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23 at 6pm. There was a brief discussion about the alcohol approval. Ben asked if the BMX bike track would be taken down and if so, can the fence posts (4 x 4) be recycled for the course? The consensus of the commission approved the reuse of the posts. Ben would be able to contact Heavener directly to address any clearing changes. Chuck Strabbing asked if Ben will need a key for the gate. Ben will be able to get one from either Nick or the office.
2. Huyser/Wolters Woods Security - Nothing new to report on security issues. Deputy Curnick has not noticed any further problems.
3. Bluegrass Festival – Alcohol Ordinance question – The Ordinance has been approved and will take effect on July 12th.
4. Township Hall clearing and BPW/Army Corps soil delivery – The clearing began on Monday, the 15th and it is about halfway completed. It should be done by the end of the week. One neighbor made a comment about privacy. The soil will be delivered early to mid-July. Al reported there were five bids with a vast range from \$7,400 to \$38,000 for the clearing and the lowest bid was awarded for which work has begun. There is no charge for the delivery of the soil. The next item will be to speak to Prein and Newhof to discuss the topography details. It will cost approximately another \$7,000 for this contractor with a total expense of \$15,000 for the clearing and complete preparation.

There is a ditch on the property that will be altered. Linda Howell commented on having the entire topography plan in place before the excavator finishes.

5. Blueberry brush-hog estimate – No update. Al will speak to Quantum about doing this work after the Township Hall clearing.

ii. Nick Otting

1. MSU status – Nick reported that due to technical issues he was unable to communicate electronically with the MSU contact. This was due to a new server being installed at the Township. He will follow-up this week.
2. Trail markers – No update.
3. Wolters Woods update – Nick purchased the light and will have it installed on the pole near the restrooms. Michelle Sall asked for an update on the vandalism at this park. Nick responded that he has not seen any further issues. Michelle also noted that the Male/Female designation signs need to be put up on the restrooms.
4. Laketown Beach Stairs – Nick reported that the Debts Crew cleared the stairs but most of it has been filled with sand again.
5. Debts Crew Schedule – Nick reported that the Debts Crew worked three week-ends in May. He has booked almost every week-end for the next two and half months primarily on Sundays. There are several projects lined up. Linda mentioned one building at Huyser Farm that should be torn down.
6. Huyser Farm Door – Nick reported that the door is still an issue. Bill Snyder suggested putting 2 x 4 boards on the inside to secure the door. It may be possible to put an electrical light on the outside. Al asked if there are any steel doors available. Chuck stated that there are not any available that would fit the size of the doorway.

iii. Township Board Report

Linda reported that she attended the Township Board meeting. There was one resident that expressed concern about the alcohol approval at Shore Acres Park.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAGLE SCOUT PROPOSAL

Aaron Edgel has asked for approval of the proposal to remove the old water tower at Sanctuary Woods. He asked if the Commissioners had any questions concerning the proposal. Bill Snyder expressed concern over the welding and if it might be appropriate to have an overnight fire watch to ensure there are no smoldering ashes after the work is done. Linda Howell confirmed that the scouts would be working with the Fire Chief. Aaron explained that all flammable leaves, etc. would be removed prior to the work being done.

Aaron stated that they also spoke to a neighbor that is near the water tower and they have offered to have a hose near the structure along with several fire extinguishers.

Linda Howell asked if there was a date set. Aaron responded that the troop is waiting for approval from the Scouts of America as the proposals were submitted simultaneously. He expects to receive a response by the end of the month and will advise of the schedule accordingly.

Al Meshkin asked if a professional will do the metal cutting. Aaron said yes volunteers with experience will do this.

Aaron stated that the scouts will now use a quad runner or small tractor to remove the steel waste material instead of manually carrying the waste materials down the hill. They will be exiting on Maksaba Trail on the North Hill. Al stated that the Graafschap Fire Department has a trailer that they pull behind their quad runner. Al suggested that Aaron speak to the Fire Chief about the option of using this equipment.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve the Eagle Scout Proposal to remove the water tower at Sanctuary Woods. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Aaron confirmed that a follow-up report will be provided upon completion of the project.

B. SHORELINE GRANT

Al reported that he will meet with the DNR representative on Monday, June 29. He will review the stairs at Laketown Beach with the intent of obtaining the grant to reconstruct the entire structure.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST FOR EARTH CACHE AT SANCTUARY WOODS

A resident requested permission to use an earth cache at Sanctuary Woods. This is different than a geo cache. Upon arrival at the point of photo, it is uploaded on the Internet with published coordinates. There are no objects left at the site. The Commissioners approved this and Linda will advise the resident accordingly.

B. UNLEASHED DOGS

Linda Howell reported received a request from a resident to allow the unleashing of dogs at Shore Acres Park. She asked how this would affect the golf disc course. Ben Barton does not see an issue with unleashed dogs near the course. Michelle Sall stated that she is opposed to a having an unleashed park due to the poor habits of those dogs that are not kept on leashes. Bill Snyder supported that concern even if it is a "one day" rule as the mess left behind could become unmanageable. Michelle also stated that if there is more of a voice from those wanting a leashless park we could consider a dog park. Chuck Strabbing stated that he would oppose it because of the poor behavior of the dogs. Al does not have a concern either way. Karen Simmons expressed concern over promoting it as a leashless park. It would invite issues. There is a leashless park in Saugatuck. Karen stated that the State Park has the same leash rules. Linda Howell stated that if it is announced as a leashless park, it would invite those whose dogs are not as well behaved. Michelle stated that it occurs at the Laketown Beach and it is very annoying. Linda Howell will respond to the resident request advising that it will remain a leash park.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2009 at 7:00 P.M at the Felt Mansion. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

ARTICLE IX. ASSIGNMENTS

Al --

1. Research electrical at Huyser Farm.
2. Have Quantum bid brush clearing in blueberry field.
3. Contact Praxis for Huyser Farm autumn application.

4. Research the option of having two houses on Huyser Farm versus one. This may also be discussed with the family at the time of the dedication.