

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

March 17, 2010

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell, Bill Snyder, Michelle Sall, Chuck Strabbing

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Simmons

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Otting – Parks Maintenance
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

Linda Howell reported receiving an email from a gentleman asking if he would be able to sell discs at the disc golf course. She forwarded this to Al Meshkin for consideration.

Chuck Strabbing received an email from Rick Light representing a local biking association asking for permission to work on the bike trails at Shore Acres Park. The goal is to coordinate so as not to disrupt the disc golf course. The association put a trail in there a number of years ago. This will also be forwarded to Al Meshkin for follow-up.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting. **A motion was made by Bill Snyder and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve the minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of February 2010. Maintenance: Veldhof Septic Service - \$225.00, Advantage Building Maintenance - \$70.00, Heavener Property Services - \$35.00; Contracted Services: Joyce Teusink - \$155.00; Salaries: Nick Otting - \$280.00; Supplies: Graafschap Hardware - \$18.86; Electricity: Consumer's Energy - \$19.66.

Chuck Strabbing reported that the spending was quite high for the end of the fiscal year. Most of this was due to projects that were done and not general funding. The new budget for 2010-11 was approved by the Board.

Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

- a. Staff
 - i. Al Meshkin – No report.
 - ii. Nick Otting –
 1. Nick reported that he has been walking the parks. He will put the door back on the barn door at the Huyser Farm. He has also been trimming the berry bushes. Linda Howell asked if Nick has heard from the beekeeper. He has not. Nick reported that he had a flood in the basement of the rental house.
 - iii. Township Board Report – Chuck Strabbing
 1. Chuck stated he has nothing to report.
 2. Ed Stielstra thanked the Commission for all of their work.

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIP HALL RECREATION COMPLEX

Chairperson Linda Howell gave a brief overview of the grant application.

Chairperson Linda Howell opened for public hearing. No comments.

A motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Michelle Sall to close the public hearing. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Michelle Sall stated that she added the word “pavilion” on page two of the description.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bill Snyder and seconded by Chuck Strabbing to forward recommendation to the Township Board to submit the grant proposal to the State of Michigan. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. PUBLIC HEARING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSDRVATION GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIP HALL RECREATION COMPLEX

Chairperson Linda Howell gave a brief overview of the grant application.

Chairperson Linda Howell opened for public hearing.

Garrett Shook asked if this grant is the same as the Wolters Woods Grant or if it was a separate grant. Linda Howell explained that it is a separate grant.

A motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Michelle Sall to close the public hearing. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bill Snyder and seconded by Chuck Strabbing to forward recommendation to the Township Board to submit the grant proposal to the State of Michigan. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. PUBLIC HEARING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT FOR ACQUISITION OF MOUW PROPERTY TO ENLARGE WOLTERS WOODS PARK

Chairperson Linda Howell gave a brief overview of the grant application.

Chairperson Linda Howell opened for public hearing.

Garrett Shook of Holland asked to what degree would there be other plans for the property noted in the grant. Were there other plans in the past and why all of the sudden is there interest on the part of the Township?

Linda Howell explained that the property is adjacent to the Wolters Woods Park and the property was not available when the initial park was installed. It is now available and would be a perfect addition to the park.

Garrett asked if it would be undesirable that a private individual purchase the property.

Linda Howell explained that it would be great to add this property but it is understandable if a private individual would purchase it.

Garrett stated that he had done some research with the family and appreciates the desire to have the property on the Township's part.

Bill Snyder stated that it is a good opportunity for the Township but agrees that no enemies would be created if Mr. Shook were to purchase it.

Michelle Sall advised Mr. Shook about the other parks in the Township.

Linda Howell advised Mr. Shook to contact Township Staff to find out about other properties in the Township that might be of interest to him.

A motion was made by Michelle Sall and seconded by Chuck Strabbing to close the public hearing. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bill Snyder and seconded by Michelle Sall to forward recommendation to the Township Board to submit the grant proposal to the State of Michigan. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. OTHER POTENTIAL GRANTS AND PROJECT PRIORITIES

Linda Howell explained that she had a conversation with Bill, a local resident who has worked on the Huyser Farm and that there is a mini grant available in the fall for arboring. Michelle offered to write the application. Linda also noted that she daily receives information on available grants. She also noted that she had been advised by professional grant writers to use a priority list to determine what grants to apply for and not to apply for every grant that comes along. She will leave this item on future agendas.

Michelle Sall stated that she would like to propose getting a fishing dock at Farview Farm. The trails are under water in the spring and could use some work, too. Chuck Strabbing suggested it would be a good Boy Scout project.

E. USE OF THE ICE RINK

Chuck Strabbing asked how much the ice rink was used this year. There are several tears in the current liner and questioned if it could be used next year. He asked how the usage compares to the disc golf course. He said there were 10-12 cars there today and there are often golfers there no matter what the weather is like.

Linda Howell stated that she has heard of little usage of the ice rink.

Chuck Strabbing stated that he and Ona spent time cleaning the Shore Acres Park and there is a considerable amount of dog waste in the park and questioned what could be done about it. There are signs about leashes and no dogs on the beach on the state property but not on the Shore Acres Park. Linda Howell asked Nick to speak with Al about signs for park rules that might address this issue.

Chuck noted there are eight trash barrels coming and asked that Nick inquire with Ben Barton as to where he would like them placed. He asked Bill to have the barrels placed at the back door of the mansion upon delivery. Chuck will be at the mansion on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. He will place the barrels inside of the mansion until the placements are determined.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. TOMMY FINN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Tommy Finn explained the new plan he submitted for the Eagle Scout Project. His plan is to clean the red barn at Huyser Farm and remove any and all items that could be a safety issue or are waste. Upon completion of that project he will focus on trimming the berries. He presented the Commissioners with photos of the current state of the barn. He is trying to work with Chef Container on either donating or discounting the rental of a small dumpster. The Commission agreed to the project plan and Linda Howell provided necessary signatures.

The project will begin in mid-April and Tommy will communicate with Nick Otting.

B. PARKS VEHICLE

Nick Otting noted that he no longer has a vehicle that can be used for park work and riding of the trails. Linda Howell stated that she will speak to Al Meshkin for further action. This is an operations item so it would not be eligible for a grant. Nick suggested something with a flatbed and four-wheel drive. Chuck Strabbing offered his truck for use until a decision is made.

C. HITCHING POST AT FARVIEW

Michelle Sall asked that Nick install the hitching post at Farview Park. She offered assistance if he needs it and will email the pictures to Al Meshkin. A telephone pole will be used for the post.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2010 at 7:00 P.M to be held at the Township Hall.

ARTICLE X. ASSIGNMENTS

Nick -

1. Install the Farview Farm hitching post
2. Check with Ben Barton on desired placement of the waste barrels at the disc golf course
3. Check with Al for "park rules" signs and specifically to address dog waste in the parks

Bill –

1. Advise the donator of the barrels for the disc golf course that they be placed on the west door of the backside of the mansion

Linda –

1. Discuss the parks vehicle with Al