

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

April 21, 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, Karen Simmons

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

A. MOUNTAIN BIKERS/DISC GOLF – Rick Plite & Ben Barton

Linda Howell reported that she has spoken to Rick Plite and there is potential that he will be able to solicit up to 200 volunteers to resurrect the mountain bike path. She has introduced Rick to Ben Barton to coordinate efforts between the two groups. The original mountain bike trail is on the Township property. Linda Howell will update Rick Plite and ask that he route any communication through the Township Office.

Al Meshkin has asked Ben to redo part of the disc golf course to alleviate any intrusion of the golfers into the Felt Mansion events. There will be donated concrete for the golf tees.

B. GARLIC MUSTARD PULL AT SANCTUARY WOODS – Dan Cline

Linda Howell reported that she received communication from Dan Cline asking for permission to coordinate volunteers to pull garlic mustard at Sanctuary Woods. The Township will provide bags for the event. Linda has also contacted the Boy Scout Troop mother to see if there is interest in this as a service project.

C. BIKE PATH AND SAND REMOVAL FROM SHORE ACRES PARK

Al Meshkin reported that sand continues to be removed from the park to be used for the bike path and this should be finished sometime in May. The shared use path is scheduled to be completed in July.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting. **A motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of March 2010. Maintenance: Chef Container - \$250.32, Gary Molengraff - \$200.00 Veldhof Septic Service - \$450.00, Advantage Building Maintenance - \$140.00, Heavener Property Services - \$35.00; Contracted Services: Joyce Teusink - \$140.00; Salaries: Nick Otting - \$535.00; Supplies: Engineering Supply Corp - \$174.90, Joyce Teusink - \$6.75, Graafschap Hardware - \$44.00, Overisel Lumber - \$20.95; Electricity: Consumer's Energy - \$39.32.

Chuck Strabbing brought attention to the electric bill that showed the street lights which should not have been included in the packet. There are two months at \$19.66 but the street lights are not part of the Parks budget. The Veldhoff invoices are paid two months in advance.

Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

- a. Staff
 - i. Farview Farm Hitching Post – Nick Otting reported that he has no update at this time.
 - ii. Waste barrels at the disc golf course – Chuck Strabbing reported that the waste barrels were delivered. He attached tops to them and the barrels are all in place. Nick commented that the park is significantly cleaner.
 - iii. Signs for park rules – Shore Acres – Nick reported that he did not see any reference to dog waste on the signs. Chuck noted that there is one individual that lets his dog out to run while he stays in the car. Nick

has attempted to speak to him about leashing the dog and the gentleman was not interested in listening. Nick has requested a vest to wear that would identify him as a Township employee. Chuck and Nick commented that the disc golf course is heavily used. Ben Barton and Bill Kaiser were both very instrumental in getting the course up and running.

iv. Township Board Report – No report.

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. OTHER POTENTIAL GRANTS AND PROJECT PRIORITIES

There was discussion of potential acquisition grants for improvements at Laketown Beach. Additional parking and easier access are two objectives for improvements. Linda Howell discussed a grant for trails at Huyser Farm or redoing the trails and bridges at Farview Park. Linda asked the Board members to think about what they might like in these two parks. Michelle Sall stated that she would like trails out to the lake, a hitching post there and also a dock for fishing. Karen Simmons asked if the trails were still impassable in some areas. Nick responded that work had been done last year to repair some of the trails, although if there is a heavy rain, there are areas that are still difficult to pass. Al Meshkin has an intern coming in May for 12 weeks who will work on grant research and writing. He currently has a GVSU intern working on a drain project. She is locating all of the drains and also walking all of the parks to map the park trails.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. BEE KEEPER – HUYSER FARM – No report.

Chuck Strabbing will follow up with the bee keeper.

B. GRANTS SUBMITTED

Al Meshkin stated that the acquisition and development grant applications have been submitted. The Land and Water Conservation Fund application required more information. Al will see that this information gets submitted prior to the May 3 deadline.

C. TOMMY FINN PROJECT

Nick Otting reported that Tommy Finn will begin the project at Huyser Farm on Saturday. He asked if it would be possible to burn some of the brush. Al Meshkin told Nick to contact Chief Cal Haverdink for a burn permit.

D. DEBTS CREW AT LAKETOWN BEACH

The debts crew will be clearing the steps on May 9th at Laketown Township Beach. The steps have a great amount of sand and in some places it will be difficult to move it. Al Meshkin suggested a structure such as Tunnel Park to go through the dune.

E. BLACK DIRT AT THE MANSION

Chuck Strabbing asked if some of the dirt being moved in the Township could be dumped at the mansion. He also raised the issue of adding a port'o'potty for the disc golf course. Al Meshkin will contact Veldhof Septic to have an additional unit placed near the 12th tee.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2010 at 7:00 P.M to be held at the Felt Mansion. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

ARTICLE X. ASSIGNMENTS

Al-

1. Contact Veldhof Septic to install an additional port'o'potty unit on the disc golf course.
2. Coordinate with the contractor to have some black dirt delivered to the Felt Mansion.

Chuck-

1. Contact the bee keeper for Huyser Farm.

Nick-

1. Contact Chief Cal Haverdink for a burn permit at Huyser Farm on Saturday.