

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
AT
TOWNSHIP HALL

August 19, 2015

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michelle Sall called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Sall, Karen Simmons, Jan Lozon,
Jim Johnson, Bill Snyder
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary
Dan Williams – Township Maintenance

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Al Meshkin received a request for more stone on the walking path in Sanctuary Woods. There was also a request from Nate Johansen to do an Eagle Scout project at Wolters Woods.

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Karen Simmons and seconded by Jan Lozon to approve the June 17, 2015 minutes as written.**
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Snyder reviewed the bills to be paid as of June and July 2015. Maintenance: Veldhoff Septic - \$520.00 (June), \$560.00 (July), Jason Schrottenboer - \$7,390.00 (June), Heavener - \$185.00 (June), \$607.50 (July), Menards Holland - \$150.47 (July), Advantage Building - \$110.00 (July), ; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$150.00 (June), \$150.00 (July), Chuck

Strabbing - \$120.00, Michelle Sall - \$225.00, Karen Simmons - \$120.00, Bill Snyder - \$70.00, Janice Lozon - \$60.00, James Johnson - \$120.00 ; Supplies: Robert Jerow - \$9.00 (July), Menards Holland - \$23.26 (July); Contracted Services: John Kunkel - \$150.00 (June), \$305.00 (July), Land Acquisition: Macatawa Bank - \$23,234.30 (July); Electricity: Consumers Energy - \$22.61 (June), \$45.22 (July).

Bill commented on the brush hogging at Huyser, the disc golf course mowing and the land acquisition payment were the only items out of the ordinary for the months of June and July. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Jan Lozon and seconded by Karen Simmons to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin stated there is nothing to report from the Township Board meeting.

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS – AL MESHKIN

Al Meshkin reported that Dan Williams has been busy with the biggest project being the restoration of the restrooms at Wolters Woods. There is a carpenter ant problem in the supporting studs of the walls and the door frames. Dan said it has been an ongoing issue so most has been replaced with treated lumber. The doors have been vandalized over the years so new doors were also installed. Bill Snyder asked if the restrooms are in service. Dan said one of them is available for use. Snyder asked if the ants have been up in the rafters. Jim Johnson asked if the front partitions will be replaced. Meshkin said they were removed some time ago and could be replaced. Snyder asked if the super structure is in good shape so should we consider pest control measures. Dan said there is a tree root cracking the concrete on the women's restroom and he has been trying to keep that area sealed to avoid water in the building.

Meshkin said the Eagle Scout wants to do benches at Wolters Woods and paint the restroom. Dan suggests green for the walls and blue for around the door. He asked for feedback from the board. Jim Johnson asked what color it is now and Dan said more of a teal right now and he would like to do forest green. Michelle suggested using whatever color will best cover graffiti. Following discussion, it was decided that the exterior walls will be forest green with blue doors and white interior, all to be semi-gloss for easy maintenance. Jim Johnson noted that the scout mentioned installing locks on the doors.

Williams has removed the graffiti, cleared the trails and repaired the stairs damaged by fallen trees at Sanctuary Woods. Janice Lozon said the repairs look very good. Meshkin asked the board members to email him or Dan if they see anything that needs to be addressed in any of the parks. Williams said there was graffiti at Laketown Beach that he has to clean up.

Jim Johnson said he walked the stairs at the beach and the sand is starting to come back but overall seemed fine. He also went into the Huyser farmhouse thru the porch on the south side noting the shackles are broken off. Williams said he will look at but the house is often broken into but surprisingly no graffiti inside. Johnson said the piano had been moved away from the door, there were broken windows and glass on the floor. Johnson said he saw a lot of large beams in the back barn along with some wood. Michelle Sall said she thought it was being saved to do the roof. Johnson said he also walked thru Wolters Woods and it looked noticed hammocks strung up on the trees. Dan said he noticed the same in the Sanctuary Woods.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SURVEY

Michelle Sall stated that she is waiting for feedback from the board members and will resend the draft. The survey will be sent out in approximately 18 months. Sall asked if it could be done electronically. Meshkin said it could be put on the Township website as a fillable pdf to include fields for free comment.

Sall asked for an update on the proposed high speed Internet. Meshkin said he is working on a proposed \$6 million project that could result in a Township owned data highway with an approximate cost of \$50 per month to residents for basic service. He has been speaking to residents and hopes to have a ballot proposal for spring or summer in 2016.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DAY OF CARING – September 17

Al Meshkin said the three Day of Caring Projects are as follows:

Sanctuary Woods – Hauling stones for the trails to rebuild and maintain stability after the flooding. This is at the base of the trail near the steps. The two bridges make it impassable for a truck to make a drop there so it will have to be done with wheelbarrows. Jan Lozon mentioned a wood chipper noting it would be a liability for volunteers and Meshkin noted that wood chips will not hold up against the repeated flooding. The Township will provide the necessary tools for the work which will be a full day project. Jan Lozon volunteered to facilitate the work groups for the full day.

Farview Park – Install a hitching post and clear the brush on the trails near the pond. Dan Williams will contact Chuck Strabbing to see if he has a utility pole. Bill Snyder will also check with his church for a pole. Ideally, an 18-foot pole would be cut into three 6-foot lengths to build the hitching post. Michelle Sall volunteered to get the work group started in the morning.

Huyser Farm – Clear the trails and remove trees and brush from the blueberries. Dan Williams will prepare the work areas by cutting trees prior to the volunteer work day. The volunteers will then stack the brush and clear other areas of the trails.

Williams will see that all necessary pre-work is done and tools delivered to the sites. Sall will deliver refreshments to each site. Williams will circulate as needed throughout the day. Sall noted that there were approximately 50 volunteers last year. Final details of the day will be discussed at the September 16 Parks Commission meeting.

B. HUYSER HUNT

Karen Simmons reported that the Huyser Hunt program has been coordinated and Graafschap Hardware will facilitate the lottery drawing again this year at the end of September. She explained that the hunt dates are October 1-November 14 and December 1-31. There are five 2-week sessions for three hunters in each session. Jim Johnson asked how many participants there typically are. Simmons responded that it varies from year to year but usually all spots are filled.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Assignments:

Michelle Sall –

1. Resend draft of Parks Survey
2. Provide refreshments for the Day of Caring project sites

Dan Williams –

1. Contact Chuck Strabbing regarding utility pole for hitching post at Farview Park

Bill Snyder

1. Follow up with Dan Williams on utility pole for hitching post at Farview Park