

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD AT TOWNSHIP HALL

October 21, 2020
Regular meeting
6 p.m. at Township Hall with Zoom option

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Dearborn, Dick Becker,
Karen Simmons, Ellen Fitch, Tom Shuff

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Brett Grams – Parks Maintenance
Jim Hayden – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fitch seconded by Decker to approve Sept. 16, 2020. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Simmons seconded by Dearborn to approve the Treasurer's Report. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – NONE

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS -- NONE

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT -- NONE

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS WELCOMING SIGNS.

Grams updated the commission on sign changes, noting he has taken down signs at Sanctuary Woods that told people to call sheriff's office about unleashed dogs; masked "no dogs" signs at Walters Woods and put up signs there saying dogs are not allowed on playgrounds.

B. PARKS MILLAGE DISCUSSION.

Commissioners discussed a possible parks millage in 2022. Commissioners will reach out to residents who are interested in the parks to form a steering committee. Shuff will attend township board, planning commission and zoning board meetings to seek people interested in helping. For next meeting, commissioners will have ideas on how to do a survey, including talking to parks users directly and online, and what to ask, such as lighting, electricity and wi-fi needs at parks. Commissioners will ask township manager if there are other ways to raise parks funds through other means besides a millage.

Fitch suggested starting a Friends of the Parks group.

Resident Jeremy Van Hoven in the audience was introduced. He wants to be on the steering committee to help with the parks millage.

Becker asked why parks commission is elected, not appointed.

C. MILKWEED

Grams has a box of milkweed pods drying. Seeds will be disbursed in November at Huyser Farm.

Grams said a "no tolerance" sign has been placed at beach telling people their vehicles will be ticketed or towed if they are still present after hours.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. GOATS.

Fitch will talk with goatherd in Ottawa County about how to use animals to control invasives. Fitch will also get cost estimates.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Supports survey idea, likes idea of raising parks funds through other means than a millage.

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Becker and seconded by Dearborn to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL