

# CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

## Minutes of the August 27, 2007 Meeting

Chairman Joanne Sims called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members George Swanson, Ruth Magdzinski, Bernie Abendshein and Dan Buckenmeyer present. Brad Williamson and Janice Gibson were absent. Recording Secretary Marisue Hojnacki was also present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Abendshein moved, supported by Swanson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Swanson moved, supported by Abendshein to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Sims had a letter from Jeff Steinkraus, who used to be with Wakeland Forestry and is now on his own. She said that he has done the spraying of the trees the last three years.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sims said that they had received the funds from New Buffalo Township for the stairs.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### **Beach Maintenance Reports:**

Overall Beach Entrances & Trash – Abendshein reported that he talked to Kirk Schrader and he said that last week the trash was OK, but the week before it was terrible. Abendshein said that he will try to get to Miller beach on Friday. Townline was OK. The grape vines have been pulled out by the sign at McKinley, but it still looks bad.

Miller Beach – Magdzinski said that it needs weedwacking.

Pier Street – Magdzinski said that the grape vines need to come down. Also people are asking about the trees in front that are starting to block the views. She felt that maybe they could be trimmed. She asked about the water at Berrien Street and was told it was just ground water. She also said that she felt that someone's sump pump was coming out under the stairs at Townline.

Cherry Beach – Sims said that some limbs are down at Cherry Beach. Swanson added that there is a broken rail and one is also rotted. Sims will talk to Schrader about fixing it. Sims reported that things were fine when the wedding took place at Cherry Beach.

**Parking Near Beaches** – Sims said that she talked to Brian Berndt at the Road Commission about the overflow parking. He said that she needed to take pictures. When she went to Townline all the cars were parked off the road like they are suppose to be. She also reported that the police were giving tickets to people parked by the stop sign on Pier Street and they were very unhappy.

### **Park Maintenance Reports:**

Harbert Community Park – Oldenburg has completed the grading and seeding in the playground area. Schrader will be putting new chains and swing holders on the swing set. Buckenmeyer asked about the land between the Township Hall and park and Swanson wondered who had to maintain it. Sims said that she had not heard that it was the Park Board's responsibility.

Harbert Road Preserve- Sims said that she had not been there recently and with all the rain, the mosquitoes were probably pretty bad.

CTP&P – Abendshein talked with Jim Donahoe of Aquatic Weed Control and he said that the person he needed to talk to at the DEQ was out of the office until August 22. They would need a permit from the DEQ to treat the watermeal in the pond and the cost is \$800 to \$1,000 and it is non-refundable if they deny the permit. The cost to treat with Sonar, if approved, is \$12,000 to \$15,000. The cost to get rid of the cattails was \$250. A Valpo company wanted \$4,685 to treat the watermeal and \$2,872 to treat the cattails. Swanson asked if a permit was needed for the lower cost Reward/burn off treatment. Abendshein will call Jim the next day and get more information. He recommended using Jim because he was up on the permit issue and the other company did not mention it.

Maintenance Plan – Sims felt they needed to put together a maintenance and management plan for the park and preserve. They have many tasks such as the dam inspection, prairie burning and pond water problems. They have 28 acres of prairie and they can't burn them all at one time. They will probably have to do it in thirds, one third a year. She will look at professional firms to see the cost of putting together a plan. There are also grants to do these things, but they need a plan first. She will start the process. She received some direction from a man she met from the National Resources Conservation Office working on the WHIP grant and there is a Fire Consultant organization to help manage these situations and Pheasants Forever is a member. Buckenmeyer wondered if Pheasants Forever might have someone that could help them. Sims said that when talking with Supervisor Dudeck about the prairie burn she was sure that the Fire Department could use it as a training exercise. Buckenmeyer volunteered to contact Pheasants Forever.

WHIP Grant Completed – Sims said that all the requirements for the WHIP Grant have been completed. It cost \$2,000 to herbicide this spring and WHIP will reimburse them \$769.95.

Mulch From Tree Trimming – Sims said that the Asplundh tree trimming workers were given the OK to dump mulch at the spur road at the park and preserve, but they had to be told to stop and the mulch will have to break down more before it can be used. Swanson said that he had an idea for a new trail by the river bottom. He felt it would take about four hours of hacking to make the trail. Sims suggested holding a meeting there and looking at the proposed trail.

### **Committee Reports:**

Beach & Park Security – Sims said that she went to Cherry Beach on Saturday and ran into the security guard working in the rain. She called the company because they had an agreement that they would not send someone out if it was

raining so they will not charge them for the guard. The Board decided to have Nick Reitz use his judgment about working on Labor Day and not have a guard that day.

5-year plan – Williamson not present.

Pavilion Rentals/event policy – Magdzinski said that they needed until the next meeting to finalize their plan.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Safety Board Recommendation for beach access markers:** Sims said that Brian Kern e-mailed her about marking the beach access with the blue posts like the mile markers and put the street name and the word “access”. After discussion the board was in favor of the idea. They would like to have someone present when they install them.

**Chikaming Open Lands Donation:** Sims announced that Chikaming Open Lands would like to donate \$5,000 to the Park and Preserve, but they want to know what they will do with it. She suggested educational information for the prairie platform as Chikaming Open Lands had donated the seed for the prairie. Other ideas included professional help in creating the guidelines for maintenance, an escrow fund, pond management and the drain needed by the boardwalk. Swanson suggested that they ask them to do several prairie tours each year.

**Sign by Park and Preserve:** Magdzinski asked who put the sign up on Warren Woods Road for the Park and Preserve because people are going in to Lakewood Estates. She suggested moving it or adding the words “500 feet ahead”. Sims felt they should take the sign at the preserve and move it out to the road and make it two sided. She suggested that Swanson call Berndt at the Road Commission about moving it.

**Tidbits:** Swanson suggested giving advance notice to Lakewood Estates before doing the prairie grass burn. He also suggested that they find some way to thank the Police Department for their added patrols at the beach. Sims will have a letter for all of them to sign at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Magdzinski moved, supported by Swanson to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting September 24, 2007**

Marisue Hojnacki  
Recording Secretary