

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

Minutes of the July 30, 2007 Meeting

Chairman Joanne Sims called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. with members George Swanson, Janice Gibson, Ruth Magdzinski, Bernie Abendshein and Brad Williamson present. Recently appointed, unsworn-in member Dan Buckenmeyer and recording secretary Marisue Hojnacki were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Gibson moved, supported by Williamson to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Sims welcomed new members Swanson and Buckenmeyer to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gibson asked that "again" be removed at the end of the last sentence on Cherry Beach on page two and that the sentence "She suggested that they ask for a deposit to insure that the beach is cleaned up." Under Wedding at Cherry Beach on page 3 be taken out as she did not say that. With those corrections she moved, supported by Abendshein to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Williamson said they received a letter from Michigan State University about their 5-year plan. Sims said that the insurance company responded concerning Mr. Richie's bill for the tree that fell on his fence by Miller beach. The company found that the Township was not negligent. Williamson suggested forwarding the letter to Richie, but Sims said that they copied him on June 29th.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Williamson said that he just got the financial statement e-mailed to him that day. Overall they are on budget for the year with their biggest expenditure being the new stairs at Townline Road. He asked if an item was reimbursement from the WHIP Grant and Sims said it was not and that the person from the Grant has to come and inspect the on site work first. She said that they have spent about \$2,000 and last year they get \$700 to \$800. Sims said that she talked to Seventrees about the June bill being for more hours than they contracted so that bill is outstanding. Also that the new trail is completed and did not exceed the \$15,000 budgeted. Williamson said that \$26,000 has been spent, but \$7,500 plus the WHIP money will be reimbursed.

OLD BUSINESS;

Beach Maintenance Reports:

Overall Beach Entrance & Trash - Abendshein said that Schrader said the trash was enormous. He added that they took it away at McKinley beach, but more could come out and they could plant something else there. Sims said that that beach is only 40 feet wide and there is no parking there so people have to walk

to it. Magdzinski wondered if Schrader had a vehicle he could use to haul the garbage from the beach.

Sims said that the beaches are overrun this year. She had a phone call from someone about parking and people getting hurt at Townline. She talked to Brian Berndt of the Road Commission and was told to take pictures of the situation. Magdzinski said that people are parking in the road and Sims said they need to take pictures and then something can be done. Gibson said that all four wheels of a vehicle have to be off the road. Sims said that there are more houses, more people and New Buffalo is charging by the hour so the people are coming here. Magdzinski said that someone put No Parking signs by Townline and wondered if that was legal. Sims felt that they need to try and do things to alleviate the situation. Magdzinski said that at Pier Street people were blocking Mrs. Nesius' driveway and 20 people with a 14' by 14' tent went on her property. Her son called the police and they cleared the beach. She said that one man was quite rude. She handed out copies of flyers she was handing out at Pier Street to try and clarify the issue. Gibson said that the problem is that people won't press charges. Sims said that they have a huge problem at Townline because the person to the north is not using his house so the people think they have that big beach. Williamson felt they had two issues: They need to work with the citizens to call the police and register a complaint. Then, they need to see how they can regulate the beaches over the long term. He wondered if they could charge a fee. He suggested contacting the County to see if the County gave them control if they could charge a fee. Abendshein felt the solution was a fulltime security person who could write tickets. He felt the people know their limitations so as soon as the Seventrees person leaves, they go back to what they were doing. They can't go through people's coolers. Magdzinski thought there was a state law that any road leading to water must stay open. Williamson felt that "behavior" was the issue. They have ordinances and they need to educate the residents. He said they need a hotline to the Chikaming Police to report violations so that when the number of beach issues in the monthly Police Report goes up, they will have to be dealt with. Williamson said that Chief Stormont said to bring it on so they need to encourage the residents to call. Buckenmeyer felt they needed to educate more people than just the residents. Magdzinski suggested putting a similar flyer on the windshield of cars parked by the beaches. Swanson thought that they could publicize the rules through the local papers, but at the same time they would be inviting people outside of Chikaming to use the beaches. Sims suggested that they be responsible for their assigned beaches and be park board citizens for a weekend. Swanson felt that maybe they have to be willing to put up with the insults. He saw nothing wrong with putting flyers on cars and suggested they wear arm bands that said Chikaming Township Park Board. He felt they needed to take an active roll. Sims agreed that they are at a point with the kind of traffic they are having this year that they have to take an active roll. Gibson said that she uses a bullhorn at Cherry Beach. After more discussion it was agreed that Magdzinski would work with Hojnacki on a flyer that could be placed on

parked cars and may be distributed to rental agencies in the area; and work on how they will approach the problem next year.

Cherry Beach & Policy for Events – Gibson felt that allowing events was an abuse of the use of the beach as there was limited parking and the more people you have at the beach, the more problems you have for a disaster. She said that she talked to the woman about the wedding and that she is going to bus the people in. Williamson said that they should put in the policy that if it is more than 20 people than they have to bus them in. Sims said that she had talked to her about that and about Nick working extra hours. Gibson said that the photo shoot was a profit making group, the South Beach Diet. Swanson said they need to define what an event is and suggested an ad hoc committee. Swanson, Gibson and Magdzinski will be on the committee to formulate a policy for events at the beaches or park and preserves. Abendshein suggested a fee for any commercial use.

Park Maintenance Reports:

Harbert Community Park – Sims said that they are on Oldenburg's list to grade and seed for \$500 to \$600. Also, they need to order some hardware for the swings that will cost about \$500.

Harbert Road Preserve – Abendshein said that they need to replace the posters in the box. Sims will see about locating the key to the box.

CTP&P – The trail is completed, but needs signage. Sims felt that the cost of the signage could be included in the budgeted amount. Swanson said that the heavy rain took some of the bark and moved it 20 feet. Sims said that the washout will be fixed in the fall and that Merritt felt that they needed to dig out under the fishing platform so people can fish, the cattails needed to be cleaned out from the overflow and they needed to deal with the algae in the pond. At the Town Meeting a man gave her info on dealing with the algae which she passed on to Abendshein. Magdzinski suggested the person who does it at Lakewood Estates. Abendshein will compare the two and report back. He also said that his former boss at Warren Dunes State Park wanted a tour of their facilities, which he is going to do.

Committee Reports:

5-year Plan – Williamson will have a draft of an outline ready for the next meeting.

Pavilion Rentals – Magdzinski moved to have a \$50 deposit for rental of the pavilions incorporated with the Township's facility rental policy. Swanson seconded the motion. He wondered if perhaps the event policy should be part of

this so he moved that it be sent to the Events Committee and Magdzinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Announcements: Swanson passed out a guide to the different species of trees that are at the CTP&P. He felt that there were ways it could be used as a fund raiser. They also discussed ways to identify the different species with ground signs.

Adjournment: Abendshein moved, supported by Swanson to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Marisue Hojnacki
Recording Secretary