

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

June 28, 2021

Hybrid meeting via Zoom and In-Person

The June 28, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:32PM by Chair Arthur Anderson (Township Office). Also present at the township hall were board members Kathy Sellers, Sherri Curry, and Steve Ellis. Members participating via Zoom were Garth Taylor (Harbert), and Shelly Taylor (Three Oaks) along with members of the community both in-person and via Zoom.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: No objections, Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Sipek – Harbert Beach stairs are in good condition, he adjusted the screws and tightened the cables, is keeping tabs on them.

Layton Olson – Share visuals on heritage trail and Hazelhurst Highlights

Karen Thomas – planting field has needs, budget for garden, problem with rabbits and picnic benches are in bad shape.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Curry reported on Cherry Beach parking lot and said they are working on center part

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May Regular Meeting Minutes approved as submitted

TREASURER’S REPORT: \$109,239.17 balance. Sellers is receiving calls from board members asking if we have money for various things but she wants us to use what is budgeted for already before doing new things. \$2,500 for community promotion already set aside, as well as money for new fliers for the township and a herbicide consultant. We need money set aside for grant writing and legal questions. TDK needs to set up gate at Harbert Rd. Preserve, money is set aside for platform and wood chips at dog park, Curry has Rip Tide signs.

REPORTS: In packet

PARKS AND BEACHES:

- Harbert Community Park – Committee meeting last week, reviewed cost of Phase 1, plan is to submit report and have presentation at July township board meeting .
- Harbert Road Preserve – Alex reported on vandalism, clothes hung in trees and shreds of paper left on trail, cameras are set up and a few pics have been caught. Notice was sent out to public via township website and facebook page, he was able to sand something out of the table and is working with Dan Engle to keep an eye on everything. The notice should be put on boards at the park, too.
- Miller Beach Survey – went to look at property lines, iron rod surveyor markers. Signs were off because they were at a diagonal. South sign should be fairly accurate but North is on an angle so may be off a bit. G. Taylor said we know where markers are now so we don’t need a survey. Anderson said we have the land we are entitled to so we can put it on the agenda if we needed but doesn’t seem to be a need.

CORRESPONDENCE: In packet, marked as read

- ADA access at Berrien – could obstruct emergency vehicles, and ATV’s not allowed
- Bunte – Meetings as of July 1 are in-person, have to be physically present in room to be counted as quorum and vote
- Film Festival – Aug. screening, LED screen on truck, permission granted
- Beach markers for Cherry – Alex looking at
- Vandalism – Dan Engle
- Lake Association – history walk including Cherry Beach
- Mountain Bike Trail - \$100 donation, we need a donation box, to be discussed in future
- Pickle Ball Court at HCP – lots of support from public, issue is funding and location

- Pier St. rocks – contractor was in compliance
 - Separate issue is boulders in water after construction, so contractor should be responsible for this staging area removal. Anderson will send letter to Mr. Chamberlain on this
- Vandalism statement – sent out to public

OLD BUSINESS:

- Harbert Community Park presentation to trustees in July
- Recommendation of new board member
 - Motion by G. Taylor, Supported by Anderson that the vacant position on the Park Board be filled according to the following procedures:
 1. An open discussion to identify priority needs
 2. Appointment of a selection committee
 3. A period of outreach to identify candidates with skill sets that match priority needs
 4. Spend up to \$250 for placements of an ad describing the vacancy in Harbor Country News
 5. Selection committee interviews candidates and makes a recommendation to the Park Board

Discussion: Anderson disagrees with running an ad, G. Taylor says we should advertise for vacant position and look for candidate who fulfills our needs of outreach for private donations, public relations, promo, advertising, and think through programming particularly at Harbert Community Park. Ellis asked about timeline, Curry said we can't send anything to township before Aug. mtg. so how about a week before their meeting? Sellers objects to selection committee, we are only 6 people so we should interview together, shouldn't have board members together on other boards because too close of connection. Curry suggested all members interview, or have 3 people on committee but make meeting accessible to all members and public. G. Taylor said this is an OMA violation and Anderson agreed it would have to be a hearing if done this way. S. Taylor felt is too specific to look for certain credentials based on our needs and we are in a unique situation since we were elected and now there is a vacancy. Anderson liked committee idea so they can ask follow-up questions and collect questions from board, have a conversation of our expectations, then bring back recommendation board for further discussion. Sellers asked how many recommendations would be made, Anderson said 1 then board would vote on all candidates. Sellers wants to be aware of all candidates, Curry wants to hear interviews and have a special meeting. Sellers said a volunteer board makes it different than regular interviews. Ellis said an interview committee is smaller and therefore more informative, could still do one-on-one conversations at anytime. Anderson said committee could recruit people for position. G. Taylor thinks an ad in paper is most valuable, efficient, and productive way to reach community, opens up to broader audience, personnel is most important decision any committee makes. S. Taylor agreed, Ellis said good to set a precedence since it's a public position, Anderson withdraws objection to put ad in paper, Sellers is least concerned with ad in paper and would like special meeting and is against sub committee.

Curry moves to have Anderson, Sellers, and Ellis on committee and have records available to all members, record meeting so all can hear interviews. G. Taylor would rather have S. Taylor be on committee since Seller's mind is made up, Curry withdraws motion and amends it having G. Taylor be head of 3 person committee and give recommendation to board, Supported by Anderson. G. Taylor said board members can send in questions they want asked. No objections to approve Sherri's amendment. Amendment approved.

Motion restated, including amendment to have G. Taylor chair committee.

Role Call Vote:

Anderson – yes

Curry – yes

Sellers – yes

G. Taylor – yes

S. Taylor – yes

Ellis – yes

6 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried

Motion by Anderson to postponing Vice-Chair discussion until we have a full board, Supported by Sellers. No objections, Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pier St. Repairs – Joe Sipek gave 4 options. He recommended to lower the stairs down, add 4ft. platform to meet code, move bottom stairs only 2ft. closer to water. \$2,000 in material, relies on volunteers.
 - Motion by Anderson to authorize \$5,000 for repair of Pier St. stairs, Supported by G. Taylor
 - Discussion: Sellers – there’s no beach so doesn’t want to spend \$5,000 when we could lose stairs, water is high so rebuild next year, rocks are down there, too. Anderson said some rocks can be removed by hand, according to Sipek. Sipek said people want access to the beach, community could clean up this year and put stairs on hold. Sellers suggested give it a winter to see what wall to North is going to do. Ellis wonders how many requests we’ve had to rebuild, says Sellers makes good points and revetments could have negative impact. Anderson said there have been many inquiries about rebuilding. G. Taylor said Sellers has good points, is it worth making it useable? He trusts Sipek’s judgement. S. Taylor appreciates Sipek and doesn’t want to turn down his generosity, but prefers to wait until next year. 4 to 2 want to begin rebuilding this year.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson – yes

Sellers – yes

Curry – yes

G. Taylor – yes

Ellis – yes

S. Taylor – yes

6 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried

- Tree Trimming at Miller Beach – One tree is rotten and dangerous, need to trim overhang, and there are invasive plants. Alex reviewed estimates – Graham cannot do project and referred us to Joe Carr. \$12,000 for entire tree line, which is too much money so we could do it in smaller stages. CNA Arborists gave second proposal, \$4,800. Or, CNA could do \$350 for removal of rotting tree, \$720 to trim overhang. Anderson thinks it would be neighborly to take out tree and also trim property owner’s tree.
 - Anderson moved to appropriate \$2,000 to remove decayed tree and trim trees at Miller Beach, Supported by Ellis.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson – yes

Curry – yes

Sellers – yes

Ellis – yes

S. Taylor – yes

5 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried

- Cherry Beach Maintenance – received request to allow Lakeside Association to reserve table and have 3 parking spaces available, request granted. Curry would like to reserve 6 spaces for them. Curry is doing the best she can with spaces, signage is needed, we have the signs and just need to get them installed.
- July 4th garbage pick-up – Sellers ordered extra cans where needed, they will be there by Friday and remain for rest of summer. Waiting for call back on signage and will call again this week, “Beach trash only, no household trash.”
- Zoom Call for July – option to continue Zoom for public and members who can’t make it in. Members could discuss but cannot vote. We will continue with Zoom invites.
- Garden Club – asked for Gazebo.

- Motion by Anderson to construct a welcome pavilion at community garden, Supported by Sellers.
 - Discussion – River Valley Garden Club pledged \$1,000 and D’Angelis family would like to donate money. It would be outside of locked gate so could be used by public. No objection to constructing welcome pavilion at no cost to the park board. Motion Carried.
- Curry would like Joe Sipek to be steward of Harbert Beach, Anderson said board members still needs to be in charge. Anderson appointed Sipek to be steward.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Fran Wersells – Boulders and rocks left behind by revetment, find out who is responsible and then remove. Why are we vetting new members now? Reach out to who is interested and who has supported board in the past. Thanks for removing signs but upset about trimming trees but not doing survey.

Joseph Reed – Will park board make all future interviews open to the public? Anderson said that will be decided at the next vacancy. If it’s recorded, it’s available to the public. No minutes available if it’s a committee meeting. Reed questioned how that complies with the Open Meetings Act. Sellers asked if we’ve done this for a board member. Anderson said not before now but it’s a good idea. Reed said Garth’s motion was more for a private board, Sellers thinks we might need legal opinion. Ellis commented that we still have to make appointment for new member. Anderson said it’s a good idea to have a selection committee and open discussion by board before making recommendation to township board.

Layton Olson – when could an ad go in the paper for new member? Anderson said it could go online in a day or so, and paper has to meet deadline.

Sherry Curry – Feels we should reserve the pavilion at Harbert Community Park for the August film. Sellers doesn’t think we should keep people out. Anderson said it’s not necessary to reserve it but can if she thinks we should. Curry wants to provide electric and toilet. Anderson has no objections to that, put off until July so we know all their needs. Will talk to G. Taylor as well. We’ll provide 2 port-a-johns.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 9:08PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Taylor