

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
4338 BEELINE ROAD
HOLLAND, MI 49423

January 18, 2023
Regular meeting
6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Tom Shuff, Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager (via Zoom)
Michelle Sall – Community development director
Brett Grams – Facilities operations
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to approve Nov. 16, 2022, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT – The commission discussed the bills.

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, to approve bills for November and December. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Meshkin and Sall reported that the township board discussed solar power at the township hall, the approval of salary increases, poverty exemption and bond payment.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams discussed people being at Sanctuary Woods after closing. He placed boulders and logs along the pedestrian path to narrow it so vehicles can’t get through on multi-use path. Simmons said the changes look terrible. Meshkin said they had to move quickly and will look at long-term options such as a pillar in the trail.

Grams explained the rock and caution tape at Huyser Farm Park. It was set up to keep vehicles out of the wet areas. A vehicle had gotten stuck there in December and had to be towed out.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER – Shuff said Felt Director Patty Meyer sent an email saying signs will be done by October.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY 2023-24 Budget
Sall went over the proposed budget.
Motion by Van Hoven, second by Becker, to send the budget as presented to the township board for approval. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comment from public.

The commission discussed the Huyser Farm House Committee. Van Hoven summarized the Dec. 8 committee meeting in which the committee decided the house should be torn down.

Shuff thanked the committee. He said the Parks Commission wanted options for the house, not just the recommendation to demolish it. Shuff wants more ideas for the site.

The commission will have the Laketown Township building inspector go through the house to judge its integrity and give an estimate of restoration cost. The issue will be put on the next agenda.

The commission instructed Grams to put “Keep Out” or similar signs on the house.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.