

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

May 18, 2022  
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  
Brett Grams – Parks maintenance  
Jim Hayden – Recording secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by Simmons, second by Van Hoven, to approve April 20, 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 Van Hoven, second by Becker, to approve bills for April. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE IV. MSU RESEARCH AT HUYSER FARM – Steve Van Timmeren

Steve Van Timmeren of the MSU Trevor Nichols Research Complex in Fennville updated the commission on blueberry pest control research at Huyser Farm Park.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – No report

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

Patty Meyer, director of the Friends of the Felt Estate, updated the commission on two informational signs, one for Shore Acres focusing on bluebirds, and the other for Sanctuary Woods focusing on the barred owl. The commission discussed trail map designs. All informational signs will have the same design and same map designs.

**Motion by Van Hoven, second by Becker, to order 2 signs as presented and enough posts for all of the future signs. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

**B. BOND PROPOSAL**

Meshkin updated the commission on recent board discussion about a possible bond proposal for restrooms at township parks. Meshkin presented preliminary financials on a possible bond issue for a total cost of \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million, about 0.40 mill over 5 years.

**C. HANDICAP PARKING & ACCESS**

Grams presented an inventory of handicapped parking spaces at parks and suggested added spaces:

- 1 at Sanctuary Woods (no more needed)
- 2 at Wolters Woods (no more needed)
- 2 at Township Hall (add 2 more in back parking lot)
- 0 at Huyser Farm (add 1 anywhere)
- 0 at Beach (add 2 near boardwalk)
- 0 at Farview (add 1 by ticket booth)
- 2 at Shore Acres (no more needed)

**Motion by Becker, second by Simmons, to have Grams make the handicap parking improvements as discussed. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

**ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. HUYSER FARM HOUSE**

Meshkin introduced discussion on possible options for the house on Huyser Farm Park. He discussed setting the house and an acre of land aside and allowing the fire department renovate the house and rent it to fire department employees at a reduced rate to help with staffing issues. Meshkin discussed having the Building Authority manage the renovation to make it a single-family home or a bunk-house style facility. Commissioners discussed the issue. Simmons said the home should be torn down. Shuff said the renovation idea is worth pursuing. Meshkin will continue to get more information on the renovation issue.

**ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Shannon Conrad, 3976 Beeline Road: Asked about playgrounds in the area. Meshkin explained plans for the playground at Township Hall.

**ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Van Hoven, second by Becker, to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**