

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD AT TOWNSHIP HALL

August 19, 2020
Regular meeting
6 p.m. at Township Hall with Zoom option

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Dick Becker called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Dearborn, Dick Becker,
Karen Simmons, Ellen Fitch
MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Tom Shuff
STAFF PRESENT: Brett Grams – Parks Maintenance
Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Jim Hayden – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fitch seconded by Dearborn to approve June 17, 2020, minutes as written. Becker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Dearborn seconded by Fitch to approve the Treasurer's Report. Becker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – MESHKIN

The township board did not meet this month.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Meshkin reported that he met with a person regarding dune grass mitigation. A project in another municipality will be mitigated at Laketown Beach.

Grams reported that missing railings at Laketown Beach have been replaced and signs along the trail that were pulled out of the ground have been put back.

Becker asked for an update on No Parking signs on 66th Street at entrance/exit to Sanctuary Woods. Meshkin reported that the Allegan County Road Commission requires a traffic study by the Michigan State Police before it will consider a request for the signs.

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT – No report

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. PARKS WELCOMING SIGNS. No report
- B. PARKS MILLAGE DISCUSSION. No report.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. MONARCHS AND MILKWEED. Commissioners discussed a letter from Laura Judge, 6510 Oakwood Lane, Holland, asking the township to plant milkweed at the township hall or Huyser Farm to attract monarch butterflies. All agreed Huyser Farm was the place to plant milkweed at the south end of the parking area.

Motion by Dearborn seconded by Fitch to have the ground prepared at Huyser Farm for milkweed planting. Becker called for a vote on the motion.

UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

- B. GOAT GRAZING IN PARKS. Fitch has been researching areas that use goats to handle invasive species. The municipalities pay for the goats to eat the ground cover. The goats are kept in a fenced area so they do not harm

other desirable plants. Commissioners liked the idea. Fitch will get details, including cost, for the next meeting.

C. DAY OF CARING. United Way Day of Caring is Sept. 17. Volunteers will be at three locations:

1: Laketown Beach. 8 to 11 a.m., 1 to 4 p.m. Clearing branches from signage, repairing snow fencing and cleaning sand from the stairs. Becker will be at the afternoon session.

2: Huyser Farm. 8 to 11 a.m., 1 to 4 p.m. Cleaning weeds and brush from around the berry bushes. Fitch will be present in morning.

3: Gibson Cemetery. No time listed. General clean up. Dearborn will be present.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jeremy Van Hoven, 4206 Vandermeulen Road, Holland, asked the parks commission to reach out to residents regarding the possible parks millage. He also asked for the status of properties for Laketown Beach. Meshkin said three small parcels have been purchased with a grant and he's working on the other parcels. The grant has been extended for one year.

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dearborn and seconded by Fitch to adjourn the meeting. Becker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED