

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

NOVEMBER 15, 2023
Regular meeting

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Van Hoven called the regular Laketown Township Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Brad Laninga, Karen Simmons,
Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to approve the Oct. 18, 2023, minutes. Van Hoven 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 and instructed Van Hoven to speak with the township manager about the Wolters Woods House loan maturity date and why parks commission funds are being used for that payment. Also asked if the bill from Jarow was fully paid, as the \$25 portion of the bill did not appear on the invoice report.

Motion by Laninga, second by Becker, to approve bills for October as presented. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Sall said parks commissioners were at the workshop and could report on it. Simmons questioned wasn't that Sall's responsibility. Sall gave an overview of the Nov. 1 township board workshop meeting.

Simmons asked for an explanation of new staffing hires.

Sall stated that Meshkin had explained the need for additional employees due to the increased hours and responsibilities in elections for the deputy clerk, and the retirement of the deputy treasurer.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Sall reported for facilities employee, Brett Grams, who replaced 180+ boards on the bridges of the shared-use paths and that settling cement has caused an issue on one board.

Simmons said signs are up at parks.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:08 p.m.

Jim Johnson, introduced as township treasurer, no address given. He explained the Wolters House payment.

Tara Toner, 6188 Standing Stone Drive: handed out a printout of a township chain of command.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 VanderMeulen Road. Explained his offer to lease the Huyser House.

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave. Said Huyser House cannot be leased; need to look at budget; need to have email addresses for parks commissioners.

Tom Hoekman, no address given: Huyser can't be a rental; why is Ringelberg making a proposal now; email is a problem; information should be handed out before meeting.

End: 6:29 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. PARK REPORTS

- A. Farview – Simmons
Bridges in bad shape, trails bad, “hike at your own risk.”
- B. Huyser -- Simmons
Not there since archery hunt started though trails getting skinny.
- C. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
Looks good.
- D. Shore Acres – Brand
Looks good, glad trash cans along trails. The township could add a dog waste bag dispenser to help keep trails clean.
- E. Beach – Van Hoven
No update.
- F. Wolters Woods – Van Hoven
No update.
- G. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga
Looking good.

- H. Historic Town Hall – Laninga
Tree needs to come down.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 5-Year Master Plan Process Steps
Sall encouraged the commission to have projects on the action plan that are more than routine maintenance; capital improvement plan needs cost projections. Commissioners discussed and made recommendations to Sall.
- B. Paint quote for Old Township Hall
Laniga said he will get two more quotes to paint the Old Township Hall.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Huyser Farm Park
 - 1) Homestead plan
VanHoven explained that the parks commission has authority over the Huyser House. The commission discussed the Huyser House.

Motion by Simmons, second by Laniga: I present a motion to follow through on the previous approved motion from the March 15, 2023 parks and rec meeting stating that the BA present a do-able plan within 6 months, or the house will be demolished. Because we, as a commission, did not see the presented plan as doable, we must follow through with the demolition or removal of the home. Home being stated as the vacant residential structure located within the Huyser Farm Park to be demolished per LT parks board authority (confirmed by LT attorney, Ron Bultje), with full monetary disclosure and support from the township board, within all DEQ, West Michigan Land Conservancy, Laketown Township rules, regulations and accordances. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE. YES – BECKER, VAN HOVEN, SIMMONS, LANINGA, BRAND. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

The commission discussed a timeline and getting two or three quotes for the demolition. The commission will meet in December.

Motion by Brand, second by Simmons, that Jeremy Van Hoven gets quotes for the demolition for the next meeting. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

- 2) Milk weed patch
Van Hoven discussed the milk weed patch. He said he has a person who will do it for free, recommended a wildflower mix.

B. Simmons resignation

Simmons said she will not be resigning.

Sall requested to add to staff reports. Said she is not on the township board, does not report to the board, is an employee. Noted that most of her time is spent working with the inspectors on permits, zoning matters, enforcement issues, and processing material for the planning commission and zoning board of appeals; since January 1st through today, the construction value of permits issued by the township is at \$35 million. Said she is sitting in on the parks commission meetings for the master plan process.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 7:33 p.m.

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave.: Meshkin and attorney have told the parks commission what to do but parks commission is in control; commission should know how much money it has; remember the Land Conservancy of West Michigan needs notice of plans.

Sall said she works for the township and Meshkin is her boss.

Tara Toner, 6188 Standing Stone Drive: stated several illegal and criminal acts have happened.

Tom Hoekman, no address given: Request board members be at meetings; volunteered to till land for milk weed garden; has estimates on Huyser House demolition.

No name, no address given: Comment on asbestos removal.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 VanderMeulen Road (on Zoom): Thanked parks commissioners for their service; disappointed in decision to tear down Huyser House.

Jim Johnson, no address given: Thanked parks commissioners for their service; supported demolition of Huyser House; stated "could work with you to get you the money to do the things you want to do;" noted there was prior discussion about moving Old Township Hall to the Huyser property; budget of parks commission.

Tara Toner, 6188 Standing Stone Drive: Parks has a budget.

Karen Massengill, 6271 143rd Ave.: Parks commission should record meetings; commission should contact its own attorney.

End: 7:58 p.m.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Laninga, second by Becker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. UNANIMOUS
DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**