



ACME TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES
Thursday, October 23, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690

Meeting called to Order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present: S. Feringa, M. Guy, S. Vreeland, Township Manager, H. Yamaguchi
Members excused: P. Brink, K. Challender, V. Guntzviller, O. Sherberneau (Chair), C. Wacker,
Staff present: Jamie Wade – Gourdie-Fraser
T. Henkel, Parks & Maintenance Manager
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary

A quorum of the Parks & Recreation Advisory was not present. No motions could be entertained or formal action taken. Due to the lack of quorum these are meeting notes and not minutes, and are not subject to approval.

Limited public comment: None

Public discussion of Ordinance of Woodland Acres Access

Vreeland told the public that the plat of their subdivision, Woodland Acres, contains 25' wide pathways from Deepwater Point Road to the East Bay shoreline. The township has learned that these pathways are the property and responsibility of the township due to the fact that the township approved adoption of the plat and the pathways were not specifically dedicated to the exclusive use of the subdivision. Vreeland said the township has reviewed Park Rules and Regulations Ordinance, adopted in 1982 and amended in 2002, and believe it is too general to fit this unique situation. The township believes that it would be best to create a new ordinance protecting both the public and individual property owners. She said the township has no plans to call any special attention to the pathways beyond the adoption of the new ordinance. We wish to exercise due care over the township's property, promote common understanding of the use of the pathways and provide for a mechanism by which the rules can be enforced. Vreeland said we have received a variety of opinions from negative to positive. Yamaguchi then opened the meeting to public comment.

Bill Lubaway, 7264 Deepwater Point Road, said he had emailed his thoughts and concerns to the township regarding this Ordinance but wanted to ask the magnitude of the problems. Vreeland said the township received complaints about large groups of people, fireworks, damage to toys, chairs left on the beach.

Chris Stoppel, 7238 Deepwater Point Road, appreciated the township looking into this matter. He believes the water is under the jurisdiction of the Federal government and the United States Coast Guard. He questions the motives of the township. Stoppel believes the pathways should be under neighborhood control as has been for many years.

Marc Frick, 7385 Deepwater Point Road, also is not fond of the ordinance and had addressed his concerns in a email as well. He felt perhaps that the township may be over regulating, the more restrictions the township places, then the higher the expectation of enforcement. He said he was unaware of the sources of complaints regarding the pathways but suggested directly approaching those concerns.

Nancy Yuill, 7081 Deepwater Point Road, purchased her property in 2001 to enjoy the water and beach. There seems to be more and more activity on the access next to her home. She has found tire tracks on her lawn. Cars have parked on the path and stayed there all day. At one point her daughter counted 17 people on the beach. Fireworks were sent off. Yuill in favor of some regulations especially when you have a car running within 10 feet of your bedroom window and the exhaust is filling your room. She would like “common sense, common courtesy” shown.

Steve Stinson, 7396 Peaceful Valley Road, expressed sympathy for Yuill. He said he would be happy to help plant some trees at the beginning of the path by her house. Stinson said the only bad experience he has had on the paths was when he was three years old and Dick Smith spanked him for walking on his dock. That left an impression with him.

Jerry Suminski, 7360 Deepwater Point Road, said his inlaws were visiting on the 4th of July and had fireworks. He thought maybe they had set off five fireworks. He commented that perhaps the residents could follow an honor system when using the pathways.

Vicky Windish, 7124 Deepwater Point Road, , 7124 Deepwater Point Road, commented that she was guilty of leaving a car on the pathway all day. She had taken two handicapped family members down to enjoy the beach for the day and also a paraplegia. Windish said she had stored toys and folding chairs down at the beach.

Dick Smith, 7331 Deepwater Point Road, has lived there since 1964. He has a access next to his property. He has never experienced any problems other then the occasional parking in front of mailboxes.

Public comment closed.

Yamaguchi thanked the public for their input. He felt that the overall feeling of the residents was that the township not be involved. If there are problems residents would like to solve them between themselves.

Vreeland said the comments made tonight will be transmitted to the Board packets for the November 11th meeting.

Old Business:

1. Continued Discussion of Sayler Park Boat Launch Improvement

Jamie Wade provided drawings for the advisory showing twenty more parking spaces plus the five in existing parking lot. He said there were no changes on the left side. Feringo suggested some short parking lots for kayaks like the ones at a Lake Leelanau boat launch.

Wade said no trees will be cut down at this point. Questions were raised about turning on Yuba Park Road as part of that belongs to the Morrisons. Vreeland did not believe there were any deed restrictions. Vreeland believed the Morrison family wanted the character of the park to remain the same. She will show Barbara (Morrison) Kopkau the proposed drawings for the Boat Launch to get her input.

2. Update on Tart Trails progress from Bunker Hill Road to Lautner Road

Yamaguchi passed out updated drawings on the Tart Trails. He said the yellow line showed what had been survey. The broad alignment is where two bridges are.. The blue dotted line is the second alignment with another broadwalk. Blue alignment passes through the Village of Grand Traverse where there is residential development. The blue line more favorable if the Village goes thru.

Yamaguchi said that Steve Smith of Village of Grand Traverse and Bob Otwell, from the Tart Trails had a meeting and discussed the above information.

ADJOURNED AT 8:30 pm