



**ACME TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 30, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Marcie Timmins (Chair), Steve Feringa (Vice-Chair), John Kerns, Nancy Kaetchen, Margy Goss, Jack Challenger

Staff present: T. Henkel

Members/Staff excused: Mark Guy

Limited Public Comment:

Dave Hoxsie – Introduced Rob Evina (Vice-President, Acme Business Association - ABA). Rob thanked everyone for their time and commitment especially to the boat launch projects. Rob discussed the previous ABA meeting and the boat launch projects that were part of the topics at this meeting. All comments were positive from the ABA members and are in support of boat launch improvements and the benefits it will bring to the community. Public comment closed at 6:07pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of 11-21-13: Motion by Challenger, Support by Feringa – All for, none against, 2 absent, motion carries.

Item C – Hoxsie House Update: Dave Hoxsie gave an update on the relocation process of the “Hoxsie House”. The engineering is ongoing for the utility issues and the new foundation. The committee is working with Consumer’s Energy for the relocation process. They are waiting on one grant (Tribal) that has been submitted and now are applying for another (Michigan Architectural Foundation Historic Preservation). The committee hired a consultant to assist with the process and grant writing. Dave wanted to clear up a rumor – Yes, there is land for the new location. Steve Smith of the Town Center Development donated (gift) a plat of land within the Town Center for the Hoxsie House to be permanently located. Gourdie Fraser Associates (GFA, civil engineers) prepared a site plan for the foundation. Dave hopes to have more information at the next committee meeting March 3rd, 2014. This committee is a non-profit with volunteers and is for the community. The committee can’t do this project on their own, they need financial support (grants, donations) to complete the relocation. There are also financial commitments to this project pending and should start coming in when the community sees progress. The funds to be raised will cover the utilities, moving the structure, construction of the foundation, and setting the structure on the foundation. The overall project will be done in “Phases”. Phase I – Move, utilities, foundation. Phase II – Paint and restore the structure. There is a time restriction on this relocation and the timeline is to be done this spring once the road frost restrictions have been

lifted. K-Wall will build the foundations, they are a good company. It should take about 2 weeks to construct the foundation. It will be a good idea to move the structure before the road roundabouts have been built (roundabouts may restrict the move).

Jean Aukerman – Make this a regional event to get noticed. Community can write letters of support for the grant applications to help with the grant including phone calls. The DNR Trust Fund has no time extensions available, what is the timeframe? By the end of June sometime, needs to be moved. Suggestion – Give the DNR updates, the consultant should help with this.

The P&R Committee appreciates Jean Aukerman with the help and pushing the boat launch projects forward. Dave Hoxsie stated the boat launches are a great idea and good to have.

Item D – Boat Launch Updates: Jean Aukerman gave an update on the boat launch projects. It was great to work with M. Goss, J. Challender, and M. Guy on the sub-committee as they were a lot of help. Jean has a good working relationship with the DNR having worked with them on Acme projects in the past. The DNR likes that Acme has goals, a good master plan to work with and we achieve those goals. Acme needs to know what they want to do with the boat launches and funding so the sub-committee (boat launch sub-team) looked at 4 options and decided to go after the Waterways Grant. There is a 50% match for this grant. Looking at the revised cost estimate from GFA (10-15% added to the outdated previous estimate) of \$183,395 which is the new budget, the DNR will cover 50% and Acme will have to match the 50%. Based on what funds are already allocated, Acme will have to raise approximately \$37,000.

The DNR does not have any funding for signage so Acme will have to include additional funding for signage.

Further discussion – Current road ends at water are owned by the County. Does this mean the County owns the launches? We need to look at the 5-Year Plan, we may have to update/correct the plan. If the County owns the launches, we cannot make any improvements. We should be in good shape for the April deadline (grant).

Did we plan for a fish cleaning station? EPA standards advocates for having one.

S. Feringa – Look at the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust Fund (grant) for possible funding of a fish cleaning station. It is a grant of up to \$75,000 (yearly) with no match. The project has to be related to fishing activities for the Great Lakes. The Tribe received a \$75,000 grant just recently for fishing platforms to be built on the Peshawbestown Marina.

Can we charge for a ramp fee? Yes, we will, as the Township will own, operate and maintain the launches. We will operate just as a business would. The sub-committee looked at different arrangements with the DNR and decided to go with the Waterways grant for these business reasons.

Jean A. requested photographs of the existing launch sites.

Dock Road launch site – we are planning on mobile mats, but this is a secondary project which depends on the Saylor Park boat launch improvements and the total costs.

T. Henkel – Fish cleaning station – can charge a fee to use (coin operated?) to generate revenue.

Item E – Bayside Park Starting Point Discussion: M. Timmins discussed this with Megan Olds (who has been in contact with Jay Zollinger). South – Kayak/Canoe launch (ADA accessible), parking, and changing house.

North – Walking trails, parking and play area (excavation at the creek).

S. Feringa and Tribe will work on signage of plants with aanishnaabemowin (language) translations.

J. Challender – Will we do both south and north at the same time? Depends on the Township Board and funding. Need final OK from Megan Olds (Conservancy), the grant time frame and details.

Dicussed types of kayak launches and ADA compliance issues. Are there any examples to see? Not now, they have been removed for the winter.

Public Comment/Other Business:

Dave Hoxsie – Has a concern regarding the Deep Water Natural Area. Very overgrown, invasives (phragmites?). The beach is becoming smaller and smaller as it is getting overgrown. Mother Nature taking it's course? Is there something that can be done about this? Not really – It is a designated natural area and it is inspected yearly by the Conservancy. Grooming is not allowed. It is a natural area and not a park. Animal habitat, owls living there, etc.

T. Henkel – Report submitted, e-mailed to P&R Committee members. Number of employees: T. Henkel (80% Parks, 20% other duties) + 2 part-time staff in the summer.

Tom H. brings in an Arborist every couple years to look at all the trees in the Township and gets advise for trimming, removal, etc.

Attended a very good training seminar.

Jean A. – Regarding the training, anything the P&R committee can learn from now? Yes, Tom H. will share the resources.

Jean A. – Moving forward we will be operating the parks as a business and investing money into this business, developing a 5-year plan, etc. We need to have policies in place to protect and promote the park systems. Look at marketing options for the parks – to get the public involved and up to date (internet, maps, etc.). Some of our previous documents were wrong, need to correct them.

T. Henkel had a sample of a map brochure that could be developed as a marketing tool.

M. Timmins – Can snow fencing be installed? All along the bay? Tom H. – No. This is a County Road Commission issue, not a Township issue.

Adjourn: Motion by Feringa, Support by Kaetchen – All for, none against, 2 absent, motion carries.