

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Timmins (Chairperson), Challenger, Guy, Kaetchen, Goss (Feringa excused)

Members absent: Yamaguchi, Kerns

Staff present: Henkel (Parks Supervisor)

Limited Public Comment: None

Jean Aukerman suggested some change in regards to the boat launch portion of the September 25, 2014 Minutes. That change has been made.

Timmins introduced Eric Ellis, Eastern Great Lakes Regional biologist and grand writer, from the Ruffed Grouse Society. He has managed regional wildlife grants and projects around our region and answered questions about the Yuba Natural Area habitat and vegetation. In addition, he laid out possible scenarios for eradicating the Autumn Olive in that area.

Steps to complete: Hire or acquire local machines to clear cut, shred, and leave shreadings in early summer after A.O. flowers bloom (July). Recut in the fall or spring/summer. Herbicide sprouts that come up. Flag dogwood and crabapples that are to be saved. The steep slopes in some areas will be a challenge, so plan to do those by hand and point stumps in the fall. Add plantings to improve songbird habitat. Mentioned bees as a native pollinator.

Cost: should take 1 to 2 days. Will ask John Page to look at it to give an estimate. Perhaps Ken Engel will also contribute time/machine. \$3200 with an operator for the rented machine. It's about ¾ acre, fairly flat terrain. The operator may cost about \$150 per hour.

This Autumn Olive project is being scheduled with Eric for June 2015.

Jack Challenger offered to check with Katie Greiack (spelling?) at the Grand Traverse Conservation District about funding sources.

Henkel recalled planting thousands of tree sprigs 12 years ago on the Yuba property, which are now 9-10 feet tall. Brainstorming future uses, Timmins offered to check with the township supervisor about an option for the bike path through it. Discussion about turning it back into an orchard and growing new crops such as the Saskatoon berries followed. Checking with local farmers to see if any are interested in cutting it if it grew alfalfa, etc. Challenger offered to check with the Send brothers.

Aukerman mentioned hearing positive comments from community members about the launch progress. Architect, Klaus Heinert has also been working with our township supervisor on the plans and may come to our December meeting.

November-December: preliminary design phase

January-March: final design phase

Early Fall: build the launch

OLD BUSINESS:

Guy shared a handout to be used at Men's Night shopping at Acme Ace Hardware on November 6, 2014; it will offer information and possible donation information to shoppers who show an interest.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Margy Goss, Recording Secretary for Parks and Recreation Committee