

**LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 5, 2012**

MEETING NOTES

The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting started at 4:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Those in attendance were: Shirley Mesch, Dick Gray, Pug Rundio, Joel Wright, John Cartwright, Bob Flannery, Keith Johnson, Larry Vanderburg, Jim Saundby, Dave Garvin, Leslie, Sickterman, and Karen Rosa. Also present from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was Matt McDonough and Megan Olds.

A brief review of expenses to date for the Cedar Run Creek improvements were discussed. Also revenues from timber sales and the Oleson Grant was discussed.

Matt proceeded with more information on the Girl Scout property. Timber Trails private road into the camp is owned by the Girl Scouts. The cost of maintenance is approximately \$2,000 per year, but was unsure what that cost covers. No maintenance agreement between the users at this time. Matt had some estimates on start up costs should the Township proceed with acquiring the property. He estimates between \$25,000 and \$30,000 for a parking lot, toilet, and boundary survey at 100 ft staking. Removal of any buildings would be a separate cost to be determined. What can the Conservancy do to help with those costs? Megan said the Land Conservancy would want to find out what the interest and enthusiasm in the community would be before any commitment. She would like to see some organized groups meet to hike, and use the property this summer to get a flavor of local use and maybe expand to a more regional use of the property. We had a brief discussion of using the second entrance that is existing but is not used at this time for a possible entrance and parking area for the Natural Area Park. That would eliminate the use of the existing private road. If that were to happen Matt suggested that we have an agreement with the users of the private road to keep the option open to use in case of emergency vehicle use.

Matt spoke about the Trust Fund Development Fund which is monies that help develop property once it is acquired. We may be able to acquire a grant for the South Long Lake Property or Cedar Run Creek Natural Area for continued improvements.

Discussion of whether our parks should be looked at more regionally than just locally. I mentioned that our parks have always been open to the public. It was suggested that the parks map we have should be distributed to the Visitors Bureau along with information that the Conservancy distributes.

We then went around the table and asked for an opinion and recommendation to the Township Board.

Dick Gray, a great opportunity that we should not miss.

Joel Wright, it is a chance that we shouldn't pass up.

Bob Flannery, questions the \$15,000 per acre for marginal land. Number of parks that we already have, maintenance costs, no jobs created.

Keith Johnson, in favor and may not be able to do everything at once but eventually can. The last survey in the Township showed 90% was interested in preserving natural areas.

Larry Vanderburg, in favor but feels the parking lot should be closer to the water, it is a great piece of property.

Jim Saunby, in favor, knowing grant money may be available for development of the property.

Dave Garvin, a great opportunity, better not let it slip away.

Leslie Sickterman, loves the parks and feels the road issues can be addressed.

Shirley, yes to the purchase, it can help the business community.

Maureen Terbeek, was absent but is in favor of the purchase

John Cartwright, had to leave but is in favor of the purchase.

We adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with no further meetings scheduled.

Karen Rosa