

**LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
May 22, 2014**

MEETING NOTES

The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting started at 4:05 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Those in attendance were: John Cartwright, Keith Johnson, Jim Saunby, Mark Cerny, Shirley Mesch, Pete Zirnhelt, John Fink, Dennis Wiand, Ray Niergarth, Hank Somero, Karen Rosa and Trish Mehney.

Pete Zirnhelt spoke about purchasing a groomer for the Parks trails, that would create separate paths for cross country skiing and walking. The cost for the groomer he was proposing is \$3579.65 from Snowgroomers.net out of Harbor Springs. Many questions would have to be answered before we could move forward with this project. I am in the process of working with Lee Kurt, Trail Planning & Program Director for TART Trails, Inc., she responded to my e-mail on 5/22 with the following information; quote "I am checking with our groomers re contractor contact information as I don't know of anyone. If you'd like, due to upcoming events, later next month we can provide you with TART's grooming program cost figures to compare options as you get quotes for contracting it out." I will continue to explore this idea. I feel it would be more cost effective to see if we can contract this out for the first winter season to document the use before purchasing equipment. Other questions would be; who will police this use to be sure people are using each path for its intended purpose? Who would be the volunteer or volunteers willing to be responsible for doing the grooming? What would we use to pull the groomer? If we use the snowmobile from the Timbers (assuming we will own the Timbers property by then) how will we transport both the snow mobile and the groomer to the different Parks? Where would these be stored? What about snow shoeing and fat tire bikes? It was mentioned that the Vasa trails are being ruined by the fat tire bikes. Jim Saunby and I will plan to check with them to see what issues they have with their trails. We will revisit this topic at our next Parks meeting in June.

There were three Park Leaders at the meeting, Shirley Mesch gave an update on the Cedar Run Creek Natural Area, Mark Cerny is in charge of Fishers Run and Ray Niergarth is in charge of Taylor Park. See the Parks & Recreation update in our summer 2014 newsletter for current "leaders" of each Park and their contact information. Jake Kaberle is the leader at South Long Lake Forest Natural Area but was not able to attend this meeting so Pete Zirnhelt who also helps with this Park gave an update.

John Cartwright suggested that we all take a tour of our Parks. Maybe we could have the Marine Patrol at our next meeting to discuss issues with Gilbert Park. There were also some concerns voiced about finding sky lanterns in our Parks.

We are now required to have all volunteers fill out a waiver form, which can be found on our website - longlaketownship.com –, or picked up here at our office. If you are currently volunteering or plan to volunteer in our Parks, please fill this form out and drop it off at the Township offices as soon as possible, thank you.

Karen Rosa gave a brief update on the acquisition of the Timbers property. The closing date for acquiring the grant for this property is June 30th. The Conservancy is close to selling the five acres with the buildings, over and above the moneys from this sale they still need to raise approx \$300,000. They have a \$150,000 challenge matching donation offered so need to raise the other \$150,000. Matt feels that the Conservancy will succeed at raising the funds needed to be able to meet the June 30th deadline but is still asking everyone to consider making a donation to ensure this outcome.

We discussed everyone taking time between now and our next meeting to look at the Parks & Rec Plan & pick out a couple of projects to work on this year. We will discuss and choose these items at our next meeting.

We adjourned at 5:33 p.m. with a further meetings tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 19th at 4:00pm here at the Township Hall.

Thank you,
Trish Mehney