

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

MEETING NOTES

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

Those in attendance were: Mark Cerny, Shirley Mesch, Pete Zirnhelt, Larry Vanderburg, Dave Garvin and Trish Mehney.

There were two Park Leaders at the meeting, Shirley Mesch gave an update on the Cedar Run Creek Natural Area and Mark Cerny is in charge of Fishers Run. Nothing new happening at Fishers Run. Mark continues to monitor the trails & pick up fallen sticks etc., he mentioned that he would be interested in helping out at other Parks if there is a need. Shirley said she could definitely use his help at CRCNA. Shirley talked about the plan to have Ben Purdy (or someone with special knowledge of regulations improving Parks) help with applications for any needed permits for their projects at Cedar Run Creek NA. They may need to apply to soil erosion, the drain commissions from Grand Traverse as well as Benzie Counties along with the DNR for any needed permits to continue work on the bridge as well as some of the trails. They would like to use telephone poles from the Conservation District to stabilize some of the trails & possibly use some stone on the trails in the low areas. Larry will put together an estimate of supplies & prices for these projects. We are still waiting to hear from the Trust Fund regarding grant monies for the parking lot off of Tucker Rd. Shirley stated that regardless of these funds coming through or not we still really need to consider parking on this side of the park. Jim has temporarily "penciled in" numbers for the additional trails at CRCNA on the individual maps as well as the large map at the trail head. We will have maps made after these new trails are completed.

Peter updated the group about his proposal to the Township Board at our October meeting regarding the groomer for both cross country skiing and walking on winter trails. He offered to purchase the groomer himself & groom the trails at South Long Lake Natural Areas this winter to see how much interest there is in this idea. He is still doing some research and will decide on his own if this is something he would like to pursue this winter or not. The Board did not feel that they could make a commitment to take this on at this time. Volunteers are prohibited from using Township equipment according to our risk control person for our Insurance Company. We are still waiting for word back from them regarding volunteers using their own equipment in the Parks.

Karen Rosa was not able to attend the meeting but gave me a brief written update on the Timbers property. We closed on the property on September 30th so the Township now owns the property. The conservancy will continue to work with us on this project. There is trail head parking off of

Timbers Trail, on the left side (it is clearly marked). We are currently planning to rent the caretakers house until we decide whether we will have someone living there to oversee the park or not. We will be working over the winter on a management plan for this property, more details about this to come. We are also continuing to work on a Maintenance Agreement for Timbers Trail including snow removal this winter.

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. I am asking all of the heads of the Parks to be sure that anyone volunteering in their Park please be sure that they fill out this form & return it to me. Thank you.

We will plan to meet again next spring, most likely in May. I will send out an e-mail in April to set up this meeting.

We adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Thank you,
Trish Mehney