

Chair
Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanes, Drain Commissioner

Members
Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.
Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.
Roni Christmas, Planning Comm. Rep.
Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.
James Graham, Citizen Rep.
Pat Jackson, Citizen Rep.
Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.



Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission



Staff
Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, January 8, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.

JOIN VIA TELEPHONIC CONFERENCE: Dial 1.929.205.6099 ~ MEETING ID: 891 5574 1990

OR VIDEO CONFERENCE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89155741990>

PURSUANT TO PA 228 of 2020, DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:32AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz (Ovid Township), Chuck Nelson (Victor Township), Phil Hanes (St. Johns, MI), Dave Pohl (Dallas Township), Natalie Elkins (Victor Township), James Graham (Greenbush Township), Patricia Jackson (Olive Township), Roni Christmas (Brooksville, FL), Kevin Holt (Dewitt Township), Dwight Washington (Bath Township)

Guests Present: Jerry Jaloszynski, Seth Gibson, Heather Brushaber

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Craig Longnecker, Todd Campbell

- A. Approval of January 8, 2021 Agenda
Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Patricia Jackson, to approve the January 8, 2021 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval January 8, 2021 Per Diems
Moved by Patricia Jackson, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the January 8, 2021 meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Moved by Phil Hanes, seconded by Chuck Nelson, to approve the December 4, 2020 meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Seth Gibson of the Clinton Conservation District reported they are in the planning stages of the annual spring tree sale; the sale might be pre-order/curbside pickup only. The dates and location of the tree sale are still in the planning process. Seth also mentioned the CCD is working on updating their Five-Year Natural Resources Assessment Survey.

Jerry Jaloszynski mentioned the PGSC might want to look into options with the DNR for an Electro Shocking Survey before restocking the County Lakes to see if some natural reproduction has developed in the lakes. Natalie Elkins said she would reach out to the DNR Fisheries Biologist about survey options.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A.** Kyle Thornton mentioned he was visiting the parks once or twice a week to check the trails, trash bins, vaulted toilets and park equipment throughout the winter. The Maintenance Department has changed the overhead lights in the bathrooms and pipe chase to LED lights. Kyle also mentioned that he helped with snow removal around the holidays. He reported time has been spent studying for the pesticide license. Lastly, he mentioned a new cleaning process has started using the new electrostatic disinfectant sprayer for bathrooms and vaulted toilets.

- B.** Chuck asked about the COVID-19 vaccine and what we are doing to make sure all park staff receives vaccines and is safe. Craig Longnecker responded to the questions mentioning he is confident that by time the parks are open that Parks and Greenspace staff will be vaccinated (if they desire the vaccine).

IV. Committee Reports

- A.** Water Based Recreation – Nothing to report.

- B.** Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson/Dave Pohl
 - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail

Dave commented he's been on the trail a few times and was happy to not find snowmobile tracks and there are a lot of dead trees along the trail. Barry Culham emailed Kyle to mention the Trail Authority hasn't held a meeting in the past few months and he had nothing to report. Tim followed by asking Natalie if she knows who to contact through the DNR Forest Management, being the trail is state owned land. Chuck mentioned some citizens might be willing to help remove trees if the State provide them with a firewood permit to remove marked trees/dead trees.

- C.** Universal Access – Nothing to report.

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

Tim reported the Parks and Greenspace final budget report for 2020 finished in great shape and under budget. Plus, the 2021 budget all-in-all looks solid. Chuck thanked the entire administration team for a solid budget and supporting Parks and Greenspace.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

Kyle and Chuck reported a survey was completed though Project Wingspan. As we have been talking about the two-acre lot at the parks to be cleared and replanted. Seth mentioned there might be enough seed at the park to cover the two-acre lot south of the barns. Kyle also reported he has received quotes for clearing the lot for a few thousand dollars. Chuck mentioned Chad Thelen might help with planting the seed once the land is cleared. It was reported that the seed was from 2020 and delivered by Seth Gibson.

Tim asked about status the sink holes in the grassland; Kyle mentioned nothing has been completed, but after looking at GIS Maps from past years with Phil Haneses, he believes the sink holes are in line with the old field tiles. At this time the plan mentioned by Dave and Jim of patching and filling might be the best option.

F. Southern County Park Search Team – The board had a lengthy discussion of the 2021 Michigan National Resource Trust Fund Grant (MNRTF) and acquisition of the property on 7575 Pratt Road.

- a. The PGSC provides a recommendation to apply for a 2021 Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant (MNRTF) for acquisition of the property at 7575 Pratt Road.

Moved by Phil Haneses, seconded by Chuck Nelson, recommendation to apply for a 2021 Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant (MNRTF) for acquisition of the property at 7575 Pratt Road. Motion carried.

G. Health Committee – Dwight said as everyone know COVID-19 has impacted things across the county, but the parks have played essential role to give people an opportunity to go outside. He also mentioned COVID-19 has taken focus away from other health concerns, such as climate change as well as the heath options for people. Tim followed opening decision about the Larry Martin Pavilion at Motz Park; do we want to talk about options to open for 2021. A discussion followed and Craig Longnecker reported that the Clinton County Board of Commissioners is evaluating these options quarterly for the Clinton County Fair Grounds and the Larry Martin Pavilion.

V. Old Business

A. Clinton Lakes Improvement Project

- a. Kyle mentioned Spicer Group is expected to provide the first look at the final design of the Clinton Lakes Project. Spicer Group has provided an estimated construction cost and the estimation reflects the budget from the Land & Water Conservation

Grant numbers. Kyle mentioned this is a good sign, as construction cost have changed greatly over the past year with the pandemic.

B. Winter Projects

- a. Kyle mentioned he is going to start building picnic tables and benches for Clinton Lakes next week inside of Peck Hall. Tim asked if the tables are ADA accessible yes, they are a mirror of the current picnic on the Clinton Lakes beach with the tabletop extended two feet past the seats reported Kyle.

VI. New Business

A. Parks and Greenspace Board

- a. Currently the positions include Chair Tim Machowicz, Vice-Chair Chuck Nelson and Secretary Phil Hanses, reported Kyle. He also reported historically March is when elections are held for the Parks and Greenspace Board positions. Tim notified the members of the Parks and Greenspace Commission that they will be given a month to decide who wants to run for positions on the PGSC Board.

B. Fish Stocking

- a. Kyle reported last fish stocking was completed in 2017. According to the records it shows that it is time to complete a restocking again in 2021. Stoney Creek provided a quote (same company that provided fish in past restocking's completed). Kyle ran over the fish listed on the quote and was going to provide the quote though email after the meeting to review. Jerry mentioned the trout in Big Clinton may simply be bait for the larger walleye in the lake. Chuck mentioned an option would be go with larger trout to avoid this and they would be able to be caught by fishermen. Seth Gibson agreed that trout might not be a good option with the reported northern pike in Big Clinton Lakes.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Jerry asked if in the designs of Clinton Lakes, the minimal curbing and trench drain on the sidewalk that goes to the lake. Kyle reported that he did visit Sleepy Hollow and provided photos of the trench drain completed at the boat launch. This information was provided to Spicer Group and the design team. Jerry mentioned he is willing to help complete the MNRTF Grant Application if assistance is needed.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, March 5, 2021 at 8:30 am
Zoom

Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Pat Jackson to adjourn the meeting until Friday, February 5, 2021. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32AM