

**Otsego Lake Township
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2009

Present: Phil Alexander, Dani Coutant, Lorraine Markovich, Ann Wagar, and Christine Wohlfeil

Absent: None

Guest: Tim Baker, Township Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Otsego Lake Township Hall by Chairperson Wohlfeil.

1. Minutes of the September 10, 2008 meeting were sent to members prior to the meeting. Moved by Lorraine, seconded by Ann to approve the minutes. Motion approved.
2. Tim Baker shared information about the Michigan Trail's Alliance and discussed ideas to move forward with a nonmotorized pathway. Options include using the Old 27 road right of way instead of the existing snowmobile trail that is in the railroad easement, connecting with Bagley Township to the north and Crawford County to the south, possibly going east on Old State Road and west on Mancelona Road. Advisory Committee decided to include \$2000 in its 2009 budget for this project.
3. Christine reported on placing a 24" x 36" enclosed sign at the pavilion to post the park rules and the reservation schedule. By consensus, \$500 was approved to purchase.
4. Ann reported on purchasing two surveillance signs at a cost of approximately \$50. Signs will be placed in the pavilion and playground / porta john areas.
5. Phil presented information regarding the nature trail forestry plan and our application for a DNR grant to cover 50% of the cost of the plan.
6. Lorraine reported that Wade Trim has been hired to survey the nature trail (~ 40 acres) and the cost will be paid from the Township general fund not the Parks and Recreation budget.
7. Christine reported that 35-40 aspen in the playground area as well as 3 aspen west of the pavilion have been removed and the stumps ground by Paul Millikin. This expense was paid by the Township Board and not from the Parks and Recreation budget.
8. Ann reported on price quotes for half and full basketball courts using cement or asphalt to be located east of the parking lot across from the pavilion. Discussed the need for including a fence. Price ranged from \$10,000 to \$13,000.
9. Discussed improvements to the softball diamond. By consensus, agreed to put \$7,000 in the 2009 budget and contract with Paul Millikin to do the work as outlined in his bid.

10. Phil referred the committee to the email sent on 9-12-08 with information about picnic tables. Concern was expressed about the tables being lightweight and could be easily stolen. Discussed possibly adding weight (sand or cement), purchasing heavier tables at a substantially higher cost, and purchase one handicap accessible table. The existing 8 wooden tables will be moved out of the pavilion to the grills in the playground area and across the road by the nature trail. \$2500 in the 2009 budget for tables. We may decide to purchase some picnic tables this year and next depending on cost.

11. Christine to ask Paul Millikin to build back stops for horse shoe pits.

12. Moved by Lorraine, seconded by Dani to request that the Township Board reappoint Ann to a 3 year term to expire 12-31-11.

13. Elections:

Moved by Phil, seconded by Ann to nominate Christine for chairperson.

Moved by Phil, seconded by Ann to nominate Dani for secretary.

14. 2009 Meeting Dates (all meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.)

April 21 at the Township Hall

June 16 at the Township Park

September 8 at the Township Park

15. Christine to prepare our 2008 annual report and present it to the Township Board and have it posted on the web. Phil to assist

16. Phil to contact Tim Baker to have park reservation forms easier to find on the web site.

17. Spring Clean Up to be held in May. Details to be determined at our April 21 meeting.

18. Discussed change to Bylaws Article II item 2. Phil to propose wording for amendment.

19. 2009 Proposed Budget Total: \$30,000

Basketball \$13,000

Softball diamond \$ 7,000

Picnic tables \$ 2,500

Nonmotorized Path \$ 2,000

Nature Trail \$ 2,000

Misc \$ 3,500

20. Ann mentioned someone was interested in a dog park. Ann will get details.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Phil Alexander
Secretary