

# Antrim County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 24, 2012

## Minutes

Members Present: Don Schuiteman, Jerome Dobrzelewski, Mike Meriwether, Mike Crawford (left at 9:35), Al Hurd, Linda Gallagher, and Stan Moore.

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others:

### 1. Call to Order

Joe Meyers called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### 2. Election of Officers and Meeting Dates and Times

Joe Meyers opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Jerry Dobrzelewski nominated Mike Meriwether as Chair.

**Motion by Jerry Dobrzelewski, supported by Stan Moore, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mike Meriwether as Chair.**

**Motion carried – unanimous.**

Jerry Dobrzelewski nominated Don Schuiteman as Vice Chair.

**Motion by Jerry Dobrzelewski, supported by Stan Moore, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Don Schuiteman as Vice Chair.**

**Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the meeting dates and times. The Committee asked that the Administration and Planning Office send a reminder email 10 days in advance and the agenda 7 days in advance.

**Motion by Don Schuiteman, supported by Jerry Dobrzelewski, to hold the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings bi-monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m with the November meeting held on December 4.**

**Motion carried – unanimous.**

### 3. Fish Structures

Mike Meriwether spoke on the Fish Structures that are being planned for the Chain of Lakes and wanted to know if the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board wanted help. The Board indicated that they would like to send a letter of support for the structures and would like the County Board to do the same.

**Motion by Linda Gallagher, supported by Jerry Dobrzelewski, to draft a letter of support for the Fish Structure project and request that the Parks and Lands Committee do the same. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**4. Various Matters**

Linda Gallagher spoke on the Petoskey Stone Festival. Ms. Gallagher communicated the potential of a scholarship from the Petoskey Stone Festival.

Discussion ensued over the Cedar River Natural Area and the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.

**5. Member Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Antrim County  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

April 3, 2012

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Meriwether, Mike Crawford, Linda Gallagher, Al Hurd,  
Don Schuiteman, and Stan Moore  
Members Absent: Jerry Dobrzelewski  
Staff/Others Present: Joe Meyers, Gene Dawson, and Dean Crandall

**1. Call to Order**

Jerry Dobrzelewski called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Minutes**

Discussion ensued over the fish structures.

**Motion by Stan Moore, supported by Don Schuiteman, to approve the minutes of January 24, 2012 as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the Petoskey Stone Festival.

**4. Glacial Hills Draft Management Plan**

Dean Crandall spoke on the history of the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.

The Board reviewed the Draft Management Plan for Glacial Hills presented by Forest Home Township.

Discussion ensued over banning horseback riding in the Natural Area.

Mr. Schuiteman commented on if the County and Township banned snowmobiles from the area could limit the use of older residents.

Mike Meriwether commented that he thought the plan was good but would not suit our purposes for the Counties land.

Linda Gallagher thanked Forest Home Township for acquiring the 180 acres.

Discussion ensued over whether or not we should adopt this plan or adopt a different plan.

The Board indicated that they would like to see the property be rolled into the County Forest Land Program and have it be under control of the County Forester.

**Motion by Don Schuiteman, supported by Stan Moore, to recommend the Parks and Lands Committee place the Glacial Hills pathway and Natural Area into the County Forest Land Program and be under the management of the County Forester. Motion carried as a yeay vote, Yea: Mike Crawford, Don Schuiteman, Mike Meriwether, No: Al Hurd, Absent: Linda Gallagher, Jerry Dobrzelewski.**

Mike Crawford wanted to make sure that if the County Forester writes a plan for the area, it shall be approved by the County.

Discussion ensued over the workload of the County Forester.

**5. Various Matters**

None.

**6. Member Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Antrim County  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 22, 2012

**Minutes**

Members Present: Mike Meriwether, Mike Crawford, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Linda Gallagher, Al Hurd, and Stan Moore

Members Absent: Don Schuiteman and Liaison Joe Meyers

Others Present: Gene Dawson, Allen Luurtsema and Laura Stanek

**1. Call to Order**

Mike Meriwether called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

Based on information that Forest Home Township had made a decision to ban horses and motorized vehicles on the Glacial Hills Pathway, Mr. Luurtsema expressed his concern that continued access and use for horseback riding/riders could be reconsidered. A brief discussion ensued on this topic as well as plans to acquire an easement from the Fitzpatrick family that would provide ongoing and more direct access to Glacial Hills. A lengthy discussion between Advisory Board members, Gene Dawson, and Mr. Luurtsema to further clarify access issues ensued. Meriwether stated that the County Commissioners had made no policy that would prohibit access to the eastern portion of Glacial Hill from Orchard Hill Road.

**3. Minutes**

**MSP** to amend (correct) the 3 April 2012 minutes to state that Meriwether had called that meeting to order.

**MSP** to approve the 3 April 2012 minutes, as amended.

**4. Petoskey Stone Festival Update**

Linda Gallagher presented an upbeat report on the preparations for the Petoskey Stone Festival scheduled for 26 May 2012. Items reported on included: radio and television ads, printed brochures, tee shirts, and vendors. On the downside the juggler had broken his leg and would not appear and K-9 demo by the Traverse City police department was iffy because the canine handler was injured. She expressed thanks to Mike Crawford and many others for their time, contributions, and support.

## **5. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area**

Meriwether provided a verbal overview of his draft plan titled “Forest Resource Management Plan, Antrim County Forests, Glacial Hills Natural Area” (as up dated April 11, 2012), specifically for Forest Home Township and including maps.

He also reported that residents along Vandermark Road have requested it be closed beyond the last resident for reasons of increased traffic and noise.

Jerry Dobrzelewski suggested that Honey Hollow Road to the north of Glacial Hills might provide alternative access to the GHNA.

Meriwether presented in his draft plan for a parking lot off Vandermark Road that he had laid out and drawn up bid specifications for.

A lengthy and vociferous board discussion, initiated by Linda Gallagher, sought clarification on the exact location of the proposed parking lot; how it related to access to the GH’s pathway; and whether advisory board members and county commissioners had been apprised or viewed the proposed parking site. Further discussion on the materials to be used stabilized gravel or Afton stone ensued.

Gallagher suggested strongly that all parties involved (advisory board, county commissioners, Parks and Lands Committee and Forest Home Township board) in the development of the GHNA needed to make an on-site visit of the proposed parking area to obtain a better understanding of the issues raised in the discussion.

**MSP** that Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that the county commissioners, and the Parks and Lands Committee as well as individuals from this board visit the proposed parking area off Vandermark Road on an individual or organized basis, such as car pooling.

Gene Dawson reported on the on-going activities of the North Country Trail Association with respect to the Jordan River water shed and 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

**MSP** that the meeting be adjourned. (10:55)

Respectfully submitted,

Al Hurd, Recorder

Antrim County  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

July 24, 2012

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Meriwether, Mike Crawford, Al Hurd, Jerry Dobrzelewski, and Stan Moore  
Members Absent: Don Schuiteman and Linda Gallagher  
Staff/Others Present: Joe Meyers and Gene Dawson

**1. Call to Order**

Mike Meriwether called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Minutes**

**Motion by Mike Meriwether, supported by Al Hurd, to approve the minutes of May 22, 2012 as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**4. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area Tour**

The Committee took a tour of the Natural Area's trails. Discussion ensued over the bike trails.

The Committee also discussed horses and different uses for the property.

**5. Various Matters**

None.

**6. Member Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Antrim County  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**September 25, 2012**

**Minutes**

Members Present: Mike Meriwether, Al Hurd, Jerry Dobrzelewski, Linda Gallagher, Don Schuiteman, and Stan Moore  
Members Absent: Mike Crawford  
Staff/Others Present: Joe Meyers and Gene Dawson

**1. Call to Order**

Mike Meriwether called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Public Comment**

Discussion ensued over the vandalism at the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.

**3. Minutes**

**Motion by Stan Moore, supported by Al Hurd, to approve the minutes of July 24, 2012 as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.

The Committee discussed allowing ORV's and horses in the Natural Area.

**4. Kayak Trail**

Discussion ensued over a kayak trail.

Linda Gallagher indicated she would like to see a local kayak group invited to planning an event.

**Motion by Don Schuiteman, supported by Stan Moore, to recommend the Parks and Lands Committee pursue a Chain of Lakes kayak race. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**5. Various Matters**

Ms. Gallagher spoke on the Petoskey Stone Festival.

Discussion ensued over the dredging of Craven Pond.

Discussion ensued over the Parks and Recreation database website.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2012.

**6. Member Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.