

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore Chairman

Mike Crawford

February 5, 2009

Members Present: Mike Crawford, Bernie Blackmore and Joe Allen
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, and Mike Meriwether
Others Present: Mark Randolph

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether gave an update on forestry activities throughout the county (attached).

Discussion ensued over the Barnes Park Trail system and whether or not to expand the trails.

The Committee asked Mike Meriwether to investigate different funding mechanisms for funding the expansion of trails at the park.

4. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick asked the Committee if she could take the Barnes Park Computer home for the winter to check emails.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford to authorize Eileen Wallick to take home the Barnes Park Computer for the winter months. Motion carried - unanimous.

The Committee also decided not to raise the camping rates for the 2009 year.

Discussion ensued over when to officially open the park for the 2009 year.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford to open the park in May at the discretion of the Park Manager. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Grass River Natural Area

Mark Randolph spoke on the '06 MNRTF Grant and how Alden State Bank went the extra mile.

Mark Randolph spoke on the Grass River Center and the differences from the original plan. Mr. Randolph also indicated that they are trying to comply with the Living Building Challenge by the Cascada Green Building Council.

Discussion ensued over holding a public hearing for the Cold Creek land acquisition.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to hold a public hearing at our March Meeting for the Cold Creek Land Acquisition. Motion carried unanimous.

Joe Meyers presented the information on the bid specs for the GRNA Barn re-roof project.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to approve the bid specs for the Grass River Natural Area Barn roof. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to approve the Chain of Lakes Masonry quote for tuck pointing. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Kearney Township Property

Joe Meyers presented the abstract for the Kearney Township Airport property.

Discussion ensued over the property and the committee decided that unless Kearney Township was willing to sell the property for a good price they would not be interested.

7. Forestry Ordinance

The Committee reviewed the County Forestry Ordinance.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approves the County Forestry Ordinance (attached). Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Park

Discussion ensued over a letter from the Village of Elk Rapids regarding the MNRTF grant they applied for last year. They would like to re-apply this year, but want to ask the County for their continued financial support in regards to the Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Beach Parking Lot.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the County approve helping to fund the Elk Rapids Dam Fishing Beach Parking Lot. Motion carried – unanimous.

9. Public/Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**Minutes of Public Hearing March 5, 2009 for Antrim County application to the Michigan
Natural Resources Trust Fund – Cold Creek Headwaters Addition**

Present: Antrim County Commissioners: Joe Allen, Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, Gene Dawson, Jack White. Public: Mark Randolph, Grass River Natural Area, Todd Vigland, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Eileen Wallick, Antrim County Parks manager, Joe Meyers, Antrim County Coordinator/Planner office, Pete Garwood, Antrim County Coordinator/Planner, Seth Merrifield, Nancy Ludwa, Linda Gallagher, Al Hurd, Ed Martel, Peg Comfort.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Antrim County Parks and Land Committee chairman, Bernie Blackmore.

Gene Dawson, life-long resident of Antrim County read a prepared statement in support of the acquisition (attached).

Mr. Randolph gave an overview of the properties, their recreational and ecological values, location relative to the Grass River Natural Area, and explained the grant request amounts and needed local match.

Mr. Martel questioned how the Army Corps of Engineers wetland regulations might affect the wetland delineations of the properties. He wondered what the cost would be to Antrim County. Questioned if Grass River Natural Area, Inc. could sell the property in the future. Mr. Randolph indicated the wetland boundaries are relatively distinct due to abrupt topography, that GRNA and GTRLC would raise the required local match, and that Antrim County, not the nonprofit GRNA would hold title to the property, and that the grant agreement, if awarded, would limit Antrim County's ability to sell the properties or use them for any purpose other than public recreation as stated in the grant agreement.

Mrs. Ludwa stated she is a 10-year resident, involved with several environmental organizations, and has heard others question whether Antrim County owns enough property. She suggested Antrim County come up with a detailed, strategic long-term plan. She felt Antrim County should probably support this acquisition, but to also go for a more detailed plan for the future, and that GRNA volunteers should meet with the commissioners to establish solid mutually agreed upon goals to avoid/agree upon the question of 'how much is enough?'. She also stated that in today's real estate market; these large properties may not sell quickly, which may give the county time to address those issues.

Mrs. Comfort addressed the Parks Committee in support of the project. She stated this is a strategic acquisition that would protect the headwaters and stream banks, and supports the

efforts of the Antrim Conservation District in that regard. She further stated that this project has headwaters, stream banks, and wildlife corridors. That planning in the 1990s identified these properties as priority parcels as they provide significant wildlife habitat. She further pointed out that it is rare to have a chance to acquire such large parcels and we must keep looking to the future when such large parcels will be even more rare and valuable.

Mr. Hurd stated he has visited Antrim County since 1946 and has seen a great deal of change, particularly the development of wetlands. He supports wetlands protection and public recreation. Mr. Hurd questioned the money needed versus the amount raised to date. Mr. Randolph and Mr. Vigland indicated approximately half of the \$168,000 local cash match was raised in 2008.

Mrs. Gallagher asked what was the cost to apply? She encouraged the commissioners to go for it – we don't know if it will be funded and if it scores well and if it looks like the MNRTF board would support it, work on raising the remaining match. She feels the proposed acquisition is the best way to protect these lands from unfettered development.

Mr. Garwood clarified the distinction between the County's authority for parks planning versus authority required for land use planning for Mr. Martel.

Commissioner White observed that in 25 years, the county allocated millage has not changed and the county always spread the entire amount allocated. When the County received additional voted millages for the Commission on Aging and Meadowbrook the allocated millage was never lowered. Commissioner White indicated that due to the current economic climate he would like to see the millage go down. He expressed concern that the Grass River Natural Area costs taxpayers money each year, as well as the Commission on Aging, Antrim County Transportation, and other county services.

Chairman Blackmore closed the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore Chairman

Mike Crawford

March 5, 2009

Members Present: Mike Crawford, Bernie Blackmore and Joe Allen
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, Jack White and Pete Garwood
Others Present: Mark Randolph, Seth Merrifield, Linda Gallagher, Todd Vigland, Nancy Ludwea, Peg Comfort, Ed Martel, Al Heard, Gene Dawson (**present as a citizen and not an acting member of the committee**)

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

Peg Comfort spoke on a green infrastructure workshop that she attended in 2008 and would like to see the county pursue a program here.

3. Public Hearing

Mark Randolph opened the public hearing at 9:05 am (minutes attached).

4. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether gave an update on forestry activities throughout the county. Mr. Meriwether indicated that he was inventorying the county lands and working with private land owners. He also spoke on the state of the timber economy.

5. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick spoke on the Computer at Barnes Park.

6. Grass River Natural Area

Mark Randolph spoke on the changes to the Grass River center.

7. Michigan Maps Online

Joe Meyers presented the advertisement for the Michigan Maps Online tourist map.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend Finance Committee approve the advertisement for \$295. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Public/Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore Chairman

Mike Crawford

April 2, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Joe Allen
Members Absent: Mike Crawford
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, and John Strehl
Others Present: Mark Randolph, Jack White, Scott Beatty.

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether gave an update on forestry activities throughout the county.

Mike spoke on the progress on removing the deed restrictions from the forest lands. Mike also spoke on the small cut on county land. Mike also spoke on a cut at Hawk Lake for a log home. Mike also spoke on the Parks Forum at Camp Hayo-Went-Ha.

4. Kearney Township Property at the Airport

John Strehl, Airport Manager, spoke on the property at the airport owned by Kearney Township. Scott Beatty, from SRW, spoke on the history of the property. John spoke on how the state and federal government would like to see the airport control all of the property. Mike Meriwether spoke on how it was a nice piece of property but all wetland. Scott spoke on how Kearney Township will be meeting on April 6, 2009 regarding this issue.

5. Grass River Natural Area

Mark Randolph spoke on events at Grass River (attached). Mark introduced the architects of the grass river center. Mark also spoke on the process of having a LEED certified contractor or to be part of the “living building challenge”. The architect spoke on the reason Rockford Construction was chosen to be the project manager. Mark spoke on getting authorization to have legal counsel look at the contract with Rockford and get approval to proceed with the contract.

Discussion ensued over the building and if it will be scaled back. Mark indicated that it will be and they are looking at ways to cut costs.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to send the contract for Rockford Construction to Legal Counsel for review and comment. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick spoke on events at Barnes Park (attached).

Eileen asked if the committee wanted to have a camp host again. Eileen spoke on how coffee with the camp hosts happened at the Log Cabin.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore to continue with the Camp Host at Barnes Park for the 2009 year. Motion carried – unanimous.

Eileen spoke on the reservations and how she wants to start someone a week early to help with reservations.

The Committee decided to let her start a person a week early if she started a person a week later to not affect her budget.

Eileen spoke on a lighting issue at the cabin. The committee told her that it was in her budget.

Eileen spoke on having a larger entrance to the attic for a fireman.

Eileen spoke on having a 4 night minimum for Labor Day weekend.

Joe spoke on how it was not right to change a policy so close to the start of the season.

Eileen spoke on the county sponsoring the Petoskey Stone Festival for \$500.

Bernie Blackmore spoke on how the Petoskey Stone Festival should not be a part of the county because the county does not support the Bass Festival and the other festivals throughout the county.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Bernie Blackmore to recommend the Finance Committee approve supporting the Petoskey Stone Festival at a cost of \$500. Motion carried – unanimous.

Eileen handed out an income summary for the park.

Eileen spoke on the park manager pay (attached).

7. Public/Member Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

May 5, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, and Joe Allen
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, and Mike Meriwether
Others Present: Mark Randolph and Russ Blasdel

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Milton Township

Discussion ensued over the letter (attached) from Milton Township regarding the Elk Rapids little league fields and the Helipad on township park. The Committee called Lon Bargy, Milton Township Supervisor, to help explain what the Township was requesting. Mr. Bargy indicated that he would be looking for some financial support to help move the softball field so there would be no issues with the helipad and the softball fields.

The Committee decided to defer action to the Board of Commissioners meeting to see the plan for the park improvements.

4. Forestry and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update

Mike Meriwether indicated that he sold 20 "cabin" logs off the Hawk Lake property for \$80.00 a log. Mr. Meriwether also informed the Committee that he had completed the Muckle road cut and the County had received \$9,818.

Mr. Meriwether informed the Committee that there were more people cutting firewood off County Land and was concerned about the liability of people cutting live trees off the land. Mike Crawford indicated that he would address this as the County Administration meeting.

Mr. Meriwether indicated that there was a lot of damage on the "Sevald" Property and once we officially took control of the land we would need to address the issue.

Mike Meriwether informed the Committee that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to continue the Petoskey Stone Festival as a County Festival.

Discussion ensued over the ACNA Master Plan and that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to see some changes within the plan.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to review the Antrim Creek Natural Area Master Plan for references regarding boat launches and add more language to the plan. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend that boat launches on Lake Michigan is addressed in the County Parks and Recreation Plan. Motion carried – unanimous.

The Committee directed Mike Meriwether to work towards the other motions in the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes.

Eileen Wallick spoke on the Petoskey Stone Festival and holding sites for the Petoskey Stone Festival. In addition she informed the committee that a vendor offered to bring a horse to the festival, so that children can have their picture taken on it.

5. Grass River Natural Area

Mark Randolph from Grass River Natural Area spoke on the Grass River Center and the history of the building. Discussion ensued over the building and the differences between the designs; as well as other concerns regarding the building.

Further discussion ensued over the Building and the capitol campaign.

6. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick gave her update on events at Barnes Park (attached).

Motion by Joe Allen supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the Finance Committee support the purchase of the ADA woodchips. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick spoke on the two trucks at the ACT Garage that were purchased by the Building Department. The Committee directed Joe Allen to speak with the Building Department to see if they would let Barnes Park use one of the trucks.

7. Public/Member Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:55.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

June 4, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, and Joe Allen
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, and Mike Meriwether
Others Present: Mark Randolph, Lon Bargy, Milton Township Supervisor and Russ Blasdell

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Milton Township

Lon Bargy commented on how they would like to ask for the County's support to help move the ball field to a new location and turn the current location into a designated North Flight landing pad. Mr. Bargy explained to the committee the layout of Milton Township. Mike Crawford posed the question of legality for the County to give money for a ball field. Joe Meyers, Associate Planner indicated that his understanding resulting from a conversation he had with Pete Garwood, Coordinator/Planner was that the County could enter into a contract for a service, but not directly give them money for the ball field.

Discussion ensued over giving money to Milton Township for the landing pad.

The Committee discussed the idea that this may or may not set a precedent.

Mark Randolph spoke on that it might be a public safety issue if it is continued to be used as a ball field and a North Flight landing pad.

The committee indicated that they would like to have the Health, Animal Control, and Public Safety Committee address helping financially, to relocate the North Flight landing pad versus paying for the new ballfield.

4. Yeti Tech

Michael Wildner of Yeti Tech joined the meeting. He discussed Disc Golf and courses in our local parks, including Barnes Park. Mr. Wildner also spoke on the potential tourism benefits it could bring not only to Barnes Park but other county parks as well.

Further discussion ensued over disc golf.

The committee asked Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager to look at the feasibility of putting it into her budget for next year.

5. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick discussed events at Barnes park (attached).

6. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Mark Randolph spoke on activities at GRNA (attached). He discussed Triple D land acquisition. Mr. Randolph also discussed a memorandum of understanding for the Grass River Center.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend that the Administration Committee review the memorandum of understanding and then send it to legal counsel for review. Motion Carried – Unanimous.

7. Forestry Update and GRNA Oil and Gas lease

Mike Meriwether informed the Committee of the preliminary work the Conservation District is doing on the trails at Barnes park.

Mr. Meriwether also addressed concerns regarding the Sevald Property and the issues they are having with ATV's. In addition, he discussed the different insect problems we are having throughout the County. Finally Mr. Meriwether spoke on how he had legal counsel review all forestry agreements and they have been changed to meet his requirements.

Discussion took place regarding the GRNA Gas lease.

Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Chair of the Board of Commissioners sign the Oil and Gas Lease for the property at GRNA. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Public/Member Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

June 25, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, and Joe Allen
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Eileen Wallick, Laura Sexton, and Pete Garwood
Others Present: Russ Blasdell, Mark Randolph, Mike Meriwether, Christy Roman

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Grass River Natural Area

Mark Randolph presented the budget for Grass River Natural Areas Budget Request. He explained the budget and further discussion ensued over the budget.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the finance committee approve Grass River Natural Area Budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mr. Randolph spoke on the GRNA Interpretive Center Budget.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Grass River Natural Area Interpretive Center budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over changes taking place in the near future at Grass River Natural Area.

4. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick presented her budget for Barnes Park.

Discussion ensued over the budget for Barnes Park.

The log cabin issues were discussed.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Barnes Park budget as amended. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick informed the Committee on her capitol outlay items. The printer for \$400 and a new tractor for \$6,238.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the finance committee approve the budget for the Elk Rapids day park and the Barnes Park capitol outlay.

Ms. Wallick discussed events at Barnes Park.

5. Antrim Conservation District

Christy Roman reviewed, with the Committee, the budget request for the Conservation District.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the appropriations for the Antrim Conservation District as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Forestry Program

Mike Meriwether spoke on the budget request for the Forestry program. He also discussed the GPS programs. In addition, Mr. Meriwether informed the Committee on some land improvements at the costs of \$8,500.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the finance committee approve the forestry appropriation as presented and the land improvements at a cost of \$8,500 to come out of the forestry fund. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. County Fair

Terisa Cole and Joseph Variott presented the budget for the County Fair.

Discussion ensued over the loss of state funding.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford to recommend the Finance Committee approve the budget for the County Fair at a cost of \$12,000 due to the loss of state funds. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Watershed Center

Sara U'Ren from the Watershed Center joined the meeting to request \$1,000 for their 2010 appropriation.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the \$1,000 appropriation for the Watershed Center as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

9. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)

Amy Beyer spoke on what CRA is doing throughout the County.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the 2010 appropriation as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over the CRA and the Antrim County Road Commission in regards to how well they work together.

10. Wetzel Lake, ACNA, and other Parks (move before CRA)

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Glacial Hills budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Petoskey Stone Festival budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee

approve the Parks and Recreation budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Barnes Park Fund Raiser budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Petoskey Stone Festival budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Antrim Creek Natural Area budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Mike Crawford indicated that we should consider the need for continuing the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Wetzel Lake, budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Cedar River Natural Area budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Noteware's Landing budget as presented. Motion carried – unanimous

Discussion ensued over the potholes at Noteares Landing.

11. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The Committee discussed the Elk Rapids Bike Trail and how they will be looking for an Act 51 government to provide maintenance when the trail is finished.

12. Public/Member Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES August 6, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Crawford
Members Absent: Joe Allen
Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick
Others Present: Melynda Bagley, Mark Randolph, and Mike Meriwether

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

Mark Randolph discussed the railroad grade from Bellaire to Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) and how the process is coming along.

3. MSU Extension Budget Request

Stan Moore presented the Budget and Capitol Outlay from MSU Extension.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore to recommend approval the Operating Budget for MSU Extension and send the Budget to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore to recommend approval the Capitol Outlay for MSU Extension and send it to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick gave an update on Barnes Park (attached).

Eileen spoke on the good work that her crew does.

4. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether gave an update on the Forestry activities.

Mike updated the Committee about the forestry seminar that was held last week.

Mike also informed the committee that he cut some dead and diseased trees at Mohrmann Park, thinned out some pine trees at Vandermark Road, and created a trail map at Cedar River Natural Area (CRNA).

Mike spoke about an oak wilt problem at Lake of the Woods property. Mike also spoke on a trespass where a property owner has put a pole barn on County property and has cut some trees down.

Mike spoke on the Parks and Recreation Forum and how it was being scheduled for August 31, 2009. He indicated that he was making a map by GPS of all of the trails in Antrim County.

5. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Melynda Bagley introduced herself to the Committee and gave a brief biography of herself. She then spoke about the Schuss Mountain Beach Property and people mooring boats on the property.

6. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area

Peggy Kole entered the meeting and spoke about Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area. She informed the Committee that the County will have to withdraw from the Commercial Forest Reserve Program and it could cost upwards of \$37,000. She then informed the Committee that there are three (3) different possibilities that the State will accept to withdraw from the CFR Program without penalty, and that the Coordinator/Planner office is continuing to explore a resolution to the issue.

Bernie Blackmore directed Mike Meriwether to contact the State of Michigan regarding the Natural Area Commercial Forest Reserve (CFR) issue.

Mike Crawford will be contacting the Michigan Association of Counties regarding this issue as well.

Mark Randolph suggested that the Coordinator/Planner office also contact Keith Charters from the Natural Resources Commission.

7. Public/Member Comment

Mike Meriwether spoke on Noteware's Landing and its usage. Mike also spoke on how Gordy Schafer would like to speak with the County again regarding the property.

Mike spoke about posting hours at Noteware's Landing.

Eileen Wallick spoke on adding a Port-a-John at Wetzel Lake.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES September 3, 2009

Members Present: Jack White
Members Absent: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, and Joe Allen
Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Pete Garwood, and Eileen Wallick
Others Present: Melynda Bagley, Mark Randolph, Ralph Collyer, Bruce Inman, Megan Olds, Betsy Dole, and Mike Meriwether

1. Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m. Due to a lack of a quorum, no action could be taken.

2. Public Comment

3. Lake of the Woods Trail Improvement Request

Ralph Collyer and Bruce Inman informed the Committee of their request to improve the line-of-sight on Lake of the Woods Trail and why they need to improve their access to their houses. They handed out information about their situation (attached).

4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Melynda Bagley, Interim Director for GRNA, informed the Committee that they would not be able to continue with their portion of the Glacial Springs land acquisition (attached). Megan Olds and Betsy Dole with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy spoke to the Committee of the importance of the project and questioned whether the Committee would be willing to support the acquisition without GRNA's support. Megan Olds indicated that she would put together a one page letter explaining the options (attached).

Discussion ensued regarding the deed over Randy Johnson's property.

Melynda Bagley also handed out the matrix (attached) that GRNA was asked to put together at the last GRNA Ad Hoc Committee Meeting and everyone went over the information in the matrix.

5. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area

Pete Garwood spoke about the current status of the grant and the issues that the County has with it.

Discussion ensued over the area.

6. Public/Member Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Crawford
Members Absent: Joe Allen
Staff Present: Joe Meyers
Others Present: Ralph Collyer, Bruce Inman, Jack White, and Mike Meriwether

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Lake of the Woods Trail Improvement Request

Ralph Collyer and Bruce Inman informed the Committee on the improvements they wanted to do on the easement on the Lake of the Woods property.

Mike Crawford spoke on how the County is not responsible for improvements on easements and that this particular easement would need to be done with private funds.

Bruce Inman asked the Committee whether if they make the improvements in the easement, they could put a gate up at the start of the hill.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to give Mr. Inman and Mr. Collyer permission to make a one time improvement to the easement under the supervision of the County Forester. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Various Matters

Mike Meriwether discussed encroachments on County Land.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve having an agreement with people that have encroached on County land which stipulates that if they tear down a house or something of the like, that they will not be able to rebuild on County land. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Public/Member Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES October 1, 2009

Members Present: Joe Allen and Mike Crawford
Members Absent: Bernie Blackmore
Staff Present: Pete Garwood
Others Present: Melynda Bagley, Mike Meriwether, Mark Randolph, Eileen Wallick

1. Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Melynda Bagley requested a member of the Parks and Lands Committee join the GRNA Board in the search for a new GRNA Director.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the Board of Commissioners appoint a member of the Parks and Lands Committee to the GRNA Director Search Committee. Motion Carried – Unanimous.

Ms. Bagley gave a report on the GRNA activities (attached).

Fox holes, crates, boards and tires have been placed in the GRNA by some people who are engaging in paint ball competition activity. They are also riding four-wheelers in the Natural Area. Sheriff Dan Bean and Undersheriff Dean Pratt stepped into the meeting. The Sheriff and Undersheriff indicated they will address the issue.

Ms. Bagley informed the Committee that an individual has approached her with concerns about submerged logs (just under the surface) where the Grass River flows into Clam Lake. He is concerned that kids on jet skis might not see them and accidentally hit them. The Committee recommended contacting the Department of Natural Resources to work with them to resolve the issue.

4. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, gave a verbal and written report on Barnes Park and the other day parks (attached).

Ms. Wallick recommended the County raise the rates for camping by \$1.00. Current rates are \$25.00 for an electric site and \$21.00 for a rustic site. The Committee took no action at this time.

5. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether, Forester gave the acting Chairman, Mike Crawford, the bids for a timber cut on the County owned Skinkle Road property. Mr. Crawford opened the bids as follows:

Matelski Lumber Co.	\$10,750
Quality Hardwoods, Inc.	\$ 6,014
Fahl Forest Products	\$ 9,542
Maple Ridge Hardwoods	\$ 9,100

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the bid from Matelski Lumber for a timber cut on Skinkle Road in the amount of \$10,750. Motion Carried – Unanimous.

Mr. Allen asked Mr. Meriwether how he determines who to send bid requests to. Mr. Meriwether stated he has about 60 companies on the bid list, but sends out a bid notice to about 30 companies for each given project. He indicated that there are some companies that he doesn't send bid request to - based on past performance.

He also indicated that sometimes he bids out the timber and sometimes he does not. Some wood products are not bid out based on species, acreage and/or quality of the trees.

Mr. Meriwether indicated he had a cut of storm damage veneer (maple) and ash on Leonard Road that he did not bid out. Because of the ash none of the lumber companies will pay much for the cut. He has a cutter cutting the trees and trucking them over to Moeke's Lumber. He indicated he is "merchandising" every veneer log. He is doing this type of cutting and merchandising on a couple of other County properties also.

As a reminder, the Committee indicated they would like to be informed in advance if the project is not going to be bid out.

The County has received \$4,500 for surface damages from Don Yogi Enterprises for a gas well on County property in the Alba area.

6. Public/Member Comment

Mike Meriwether and Mark Randolph reported issues that were brought up at the Park Forum that have high interest including:

- Trails
- Bike trails
- Boat launch
- Ski trail
- Fish structure

It was Mr. Meriwether's belief that we are at the point at which the Parks and Recreation Plan can be written.

7. Various Matters

Encroachment on to County Land

Mr. Meriwether informed the Committee about a conversation with an individual who has a structure which is partly on County property. Mr. Crawford asked to see a site plan that shows how much of the structure is on County property, indicating that it should be reviewed again.

Lake of the Woods

At the last Board of Commissioners meeting approval was granted to two residents who live on the south side of Lake of the Woods to engage in improvement to an easement over County property. Mr. Crawford indicated that Mr. Meriwether should keep an eye on the road improvements.

Mr. Crawford indicated that when writing the Parks and Recreation Plan they should include a process for transitioning to a Parks Director position.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES November 2, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Joe Allen, and Mike Crawford
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Joe Meyers
Others Present: Mike Meriwether and Eileen Wallick

1. Meeting called to order at 9:13 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Joe Meyers informed the Committee that the GRNA Building was broken into and Melynda Bagley would not be at the meeting because she was meeting with the police.

4. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick passed out her report (attached). She spoke about opening Barnes Park earlier in March and ending on the first of December. Bernie Blackmore asked that this be sent to the Administration Committee.

5. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether spoke on the timber cuts going on throughout the county. He discussed how he was a little dissatisfied with Matelski's cut for the Skinkle Road property cut.

Mike Meriwether spoke on how he would probably be doing a cut for the Hawk Lake Property.

Mike spoke on the Road on the Lake of the Woods Property and how they had to fix some problems with the road. He also talked about how he wrote a letter to the people who put a pole barn up on Lake of the Woods property and how they cut some timber.

Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend Legal Counsel to look into to the pole barn at the Lake of the Woods (05-04-017-013-00) property. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over whether or not to fill the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mike Crawford indicated that due to economic times we might not be able to fill the vacancy.

Discussion ensued over parks and recreation plan and a boat launch at ACNA.

6. Public/Member Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Joseph Allen

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES December 3, 2009

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Crawford

Members Absent: Joe Allen

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether and Eileen Wallick

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Barnes Park – Firewood Bids

Rusty Barnes

\$ 2.75 per bundle for three (3) years

Kip E Drake

\$1.00 per Bundle for three (3) years

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore to accept the low bid as long as the specifications check out. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Pole Barn on County Land

Charlie Koop joined the meeting. Bob Rosiac entered the meeting and explained the pole barn issue. Discussion ensued over the property and how the situation could be rectified. Discussion ensued over the cutting of timber.

5. Conservation District Update

Christy Roman gave an update of events at the Antrim Conservation District and the letter on the Conservation District to do work on the Cedar River. Discussion ensued over the work to be done through the grant.

Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners give permission to do the fish habitat work on the Cedar River Natural Area at no additional cost to the County. If the grant is awarded, the County will sign a contract for the work to be done. Motion carried - unanimous.

6. GRNA Update

Melynda Bagley spoke on the GRNA Building break-in and how the building was now secure. She also indicated that the GRNA hiring committee will be meeting on December 15, 2009.

7. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick handed out the Barnes Park update and informed the Committee (attached).

8. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update

Mike Meriwether spoke on the Skinkle Road property. He indicated that the cut was done and he spoke with the lumber company on the things that need to be done if they are to get any bids in the future. Mike Meriwether indicated that he was working with Ellsworth and Bellaire School districts on timber cuts and how he is working with John Strehl on the airport easements.

Mike Meriwether also spoke on the Parks & Recreation Plan process.

9. Public/Member Comment

Mike Meriwether spoke on the barn on County property. Discussion ensued over how the situation should be handled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.