

**BINGHAM TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES 6/13/22**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – by Mary Bush. Meeting held at Boughey Park Pavilion.

**2. ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Midge Werner, Todd Stone, Bob Walton, Mary Bush (Chairperson), Jesse Lewit, Ted Cimafranca, Dan Rose

Guests: Jim Moore (Director of Disabilities Network Northern Michigan) and Alana Leaky (Associate Director of Disabilities Network Northern Michigan)

**3. SUGGESTIONS FOR PARK DESIGN AND AMENITIES TO BETTER SERVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: PRESENTATION BY JIM MOORE AND ALANA LEAKY**

**Parking:** Michigan law requires that at least one handicap parking space be provided at Boughey Park. However, creating two handicap parking spaces is a more efficient use of space. That is due to the 5' gap next to the handicap parking space to allow for van accessible wheelchair ramps. Two van accessible handicap parking spaces can be created in a total distance of 24'. The space is divided by having an 11' wide parking space, followed by a 5' empty space, followed by an 8' parking space. The 5' empty space can be shared by the two opposing parking spaces to allow for wheelchair ramps to be extended by the respective vans.

**Parking Surface:** A flat smooth hard surface is needed for wheelchair use, walker use, and general safety of those park users experiencing mobility limitations. The flat smooth hard surface should extend to all amenities in the park such as walkways to the restroom facilities, pavilion, beach, picnic area and children's play equipment. The flat smooth hard surface can either be asphalt or crushed stone. Jim Moore noted that the stone option involves more maintenance, in his experience. The portion of the parking devoted to handicap parking can have an asphalt surface while the remaining parking spaces can be graveled.

**Access to Park:** Sidewalks throughout the park should be no more than a 5% grade to permit safe wheelchair use. Switchbacks and rest areas can be provided for users needing mobility assistance. Picnic tables with handicap spaces should be placed near handicap paths.

**Beach Access:** Moby Mats are often used to create a hard flat surface across sand to allow wheelchair users to access the water. These mats have good longevity if taken up every year during cold inclement weather.

**Play Equipment:** The path to the play equipment area should contain the same features as other paths that accommodate people with disabilities. Special play equipment for disabled children is available. A rubbery material underneath the play equipment is advised to reduce the risk of injury to users.

**Pavilion Access:** Several options exist to modify the entrance locations to the pavilion in order to accommodate people with disabilities.

Handicap Port-O-Potties: The current handicap port-o-potties are not large enough to accommodate the need for those in wheelchairs to turn around. Further, there is insufficient space to allow for a second person in the stall that may be needed to assist a person with disabilities.

Note: Check with Kathy Morio to see if the port-o-pottie service offers a larger handicap unit.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:**

Minutes Approved. Vote = 6-0.

Note: Bob Walton and Todd Stone will contact Dan Rose after the meeting to address changes they propose.

#### **5. PARK BUDGET 2022-2023**

Midge drafted a budget for the parks. The budget reflects ongoing yearly operating expenses. Extra money was budgeted to account for costs for earlier installation port-o-potties and trash receptacles. Items 246 and 248 are for parks in the township budget.

Midge said that proposals for park projects should be submitted by January – February to provide time to the township board for planning for the next-year’s fiscal budget.

Midge noted that the township has added money to the park budget in recognition of the costs that will be incurred to create parking and improvements at Boughey Park.

#### **6. SWIMMING BUOYS UPDATE**

Bob and Todd obtained costs for the “ground tackle” for swimming buoys. Some items can be purchased locally and others have to be purchased “online.” Todd estimated it will “take weeks” to order, assemble and install the ground tackle for the buoys.

Bob and Todd said that ground tackle for each buoy will cost \$210, with shipping costs of \$35 for each. Bob and Todd suggested 4 buoys for Boughey Park.

Dan offered his rowboat and labor to install ground tackle and buoys.

Jesse asked if parks committee volunteers are covered by workers compensation benefits if injured when installing buoys. Midge said she would check with the township’s insurance provider.

Motion:

Authorize Todd to request \$1,200 for Boughey Park buoy ground tackle from Township Board at June 20, 2022 meeting.

Passed. Vote = 6-0

#### **7. GOSLING CZUBAK ENGINEERING UPDATE**

Todd reported that he met with Gosling Czubak Engineer Kevin Krogulecki at Boughey Park on June 1, 2022. Todd said that Mr. Krogulecki said it would cost \$3,800 to prepare updated

engineering plans for the parking lot at Boughey Park. In addition, it would cost \$2,000 to obtain soil samples at Boughey Park to ensure that the proposed parking area has a proper soil substrate.

Todd provided additional Boughey Park plans prepared by Gosling Czubak in 2014 and 2015. It appears these updated plans were prepared in anticipation of requesting grants from Rotary Charities and DNR oil lease funds.

Todd said the engineer estimated that engineering plans would be ready in 3 ½ months if ordered today. The engineering work can start in one month. It will take 2 ½ months to complete the work after it is started if core samples are ordered.

Motion:

Authorize Todd to request \$5,800 from the Bingham Township Board at their June 20, 2022 meeting to pay Gosling Czubak engineers to provide professional services in the preparation of estimate of costs of materials, core samples and engineer drawings for a parking lot at Boughey Park.

Passed. Vote = 6-0

Dan expressed concern that Todd was again acting on his own in pursuing development of the parks. On May 20, 2022, when meeting at Boughey Park to discuss planning for the parking lot, all parks committee members agreed that meetings with Gosling Czubak engineers would be done as a group. On May 31, 2022, Todd met in person at Groesser Park with Bob Walton, Jesse Lewit and Dan Rose. Todd did not mention to any of the parks committee members that he was meeting the next morning at Boughey Park with a Gosling Czubak engineer. Dan said that this unilateral action by Todd is a repeat of similar action he has taken in the past. Jesse said that such conduct renders the parks committee dysfunctional.

Todd defended his actions by saying that he was asked by the Bingham Township Board at their meeting in May to get a quote for additional services from a Gosling Czubak engineer. Todd said that he was acting in his role as trustee when he met alone with the engineer, and did not have to consult with the parks committee.

In response, Dan noted that Todd's official duties as trustee extend to the parks committee since he is the elected representative assigned to that committee. Todd replied that he "answer(s) to Midge," not the parks committee. Dan and Jesse questioned Todd's assertion by noting that he is elected to represent the constituents of Bingham Township.

There was no resolution to the issue.

Meeting adjourned.