

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
20356 Wendigo Park Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone 218-259-1551

Supervisor/VC Mike Schack 340-8852
Supervisor Ryan Davies 929-0610
Supervisor Dan Gilbert 259-4967
Supervisor Jim Kelley 327-0317
Treasurer Nancy Kopacek 398-3497
Clerk Kelly Derfler 244-1811

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Mission Statement:
The Harris Town Board strive to enhance the quality of life protect the environment and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.
www.harristownshipmn.org

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING June 28, 2023 MINUTES

Present: Madam Chair Clayton, Vice Chair Schack, Supervisors Davies, Gilbert, and Kelley; Treasurer Kopacek, Clerk Derfler

Pledge to the Flag was conducted, followed by the reading of the township mission statement.

Approve the Minutes

May 24, 2023, P & D Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve the Minutes of the May 24, 2023 Planning and Development Meeting. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Additions and Corrections

Chair Clayton requested to add Peterson Zoning Application as item 12.E. under New Business.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the P and D Agenda with the addition of Peterson Zoning Application as item 12.E. under New Business. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Business from the Floor

Wendigo Park Road Speeding

Scott Casper, 18919 Wendigo Park Rd, contacted the board with concerns about the speeding on Wendigo Park Rd. He believes there is a lack of signage on the road contributing to speeding. He was also concerned about the number of trees blocking the right-of-way on the NE corner of Underwood Rd and Wendigo Park Rd. He suggested a lower speed limit entering the 90-degree turn near Wendigo Park Circle, speed humps on Wendigo Park Rd, and children at play signs.

Chair Clayton shared some road sign information in the agenda packet for the board to reference. She also stated that this topic could be discussed further at an upcoming work session.

Dan Butterfield, 21810 Verde Lane, shared that residents on Airport Rd/CR-96 have also encountered problems with speeding. They have considered meeting with the county to discuss adding speed humps on Airport Rd. The county previously stated that they refrain from installing speed humps on state-aid highways.

Supervisor Gilbert stated that the Sheriff told him last year there was going to be a speed survey done on Wendigo Park Rd. He is not certain whether it was completed. He also stated that the tree branches at the corner of Underwood Rd and Wendigo Park Rd was noted on the Board's road tour and was deemed to be on personal property, not the right-of-way. Further discussion held.

Consent Agenda

There were no Consent Agenda items.

Roads

Roads Update

Supervisor Kelley stated that the roads are in good shape and the dust has subsided with the recent rain.

Sunny Beach Road Pay App #7

Supervisor Kelley shared the latest pay app with the board. All of the work has been completed except filling in the inside shouldering. He also added that he was contacted about a resident parking on the road on Jane Lane again. Supervisor Kelley talked to the resident asking him not to park in the roadway. The Sheriff's office has been notified and will be issuing tickets if the problem persists.

Southwood Road Drainage Ditch

Supervisor Schack stated that a resident contacted the township with concerns about dumping in the ditch again on Southwood Road. There were photos taken as part of the agenda packet showing cement dumped in the ditch. Supervisor Schack suggested adding no dumping signage in the area.

Chair Clayton will send out letters to residents in that area to remind them to not dump anything in the ditches.

Recreation

Park and Cemetery Inspection Reports for May 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Park And Cemetery Inspection Reports for May 2023. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Weed Inspection Report

Supervisor Gilbert shared that lupines are in bloom and no wild parsnip has been found in the township. He is looking for poison hemlock in the area but has not found any to date.

Flowers for Pollinators

Supervisor Gilbert stated that the township is working on a pollinator garden at Crystal Park. As of now, there is heal-all, common milkweed, daisies, butterfly weed, curly dock, white champions, red clover, common mullein and more. There is common tansy that will need to be removed from the area.

Firewise

Supervisor Schack discussed the Firewise project, explaining that residents should keep brush and debris 100ft from their house in case of a wildfire. There will be a pick-up for branches, brush, etc coming soon. A form is available for residents who participate to fill out to keep track of hours spent cleaning up. The Firewise program will be reimbursed for the hours and costs incurred. Residents can contact Supervisor Schack for the form at supervisorehpt@gmail.com or 218-340-8852.

MowDaddy Contract

Chair Clayton stated that MowDaddy sent the signed contract back with the statement "allow for cost-of-living increase for 2024 and 2025 seasons. Max 5%, if Harris Township agrees". The board held a discussion on the reasons for not approving the clause, as cost-of-living increases should have been included in the bid and not after it was approved.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to deny the request from MowDaddy allowing for cost-of-living increase for 2024 and 2025 seasons. Chair Clayton will send a letter to MowDaddy explaining the board's decision to deny the request.

Correspondence

Trials Task Force Minutes of June 8, 2023

Informational only.

Lake Country Power Notice of Capital Credit Allocation

Informational only.

Town Hall

Town Hall Report for May 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Town Hall Report for May 2023. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Maintenance

Maintenance Report for May 2023

A motion was made by Chair Clayton and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Maintenance Report for May 2023. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Old Business

Wunderlich Easement

Jake Wunderlich approached the board to request easement access from the entry of the cemetery to his property. He discussed the benefits of the county not having to construct a new approach and not having the possible drainage problems with another culvert added. He would also be taking care of the lawn and snow on that side of the easement.

The board reviewed photos shared of the possible easement. Discussion was held on the concerns of the easement.

Jeff Wunderlich, 16527 River Rd, added that they have begun clearing brush on the property and plan to keep the mature oak trees at the entrance to the driveway. He also stated that if the entrance to the property was further north of the cemetery entrance, it could disrupt the future snowmobile trail.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to potentially approve the easement agreement between Harris Township and Jake Wunderlich which would only include a sliver of the cemetery road entrance, and contingent upon Supervisor Kelley inspecting the location of the easement and bringing it back to the board for final approval. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

Share the Road Signage

Supervisor Schack discussed possible share the road signs for Wendigo Park Rd. The board will discuss signage further at the next work session.

Mishawaka Public Water Access Cooperative Agreement

Chair Clayton reviewed the Mishawaka Public Water Access Cooperative Agreement with the board for the Mishawaka Landing project. The agreement allows the DNR to provide \$14,025.00 in funding for the project.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Pokegama Lake Mishawaka Public Water Accesses Cooperative Agreement Between the State of Minnesota and Harris Township. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-017 Re: DNR/Mishawaka Landing

Chair Clayton read Resolution 2023-017 in its entirety.

Madam Chair Clayton called for a Roll Call:

Supervisor Kelley:	Yes
Supervisor Gilbert:	Yes
Supervisor Davies:	Yes
Supervisor Schack:	Yes
Madam Chair Clayton:	Yes

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Gilbert to approve Resolution 2023-017 Re: DNR/Mishawaka Landing. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session Re: Mishawaka Landing, Grant Opportunities, Fight Blight, Crystal Park, and Road Signage

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Chair Clayton to schedule the Work Session Re: Mishawaka Landing, Grant Opportunities, Fight Blight, Crystal Park, and Road Signage on July 14, 2023 at 5pm. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Peterson Zoning App

Chair Clayton reviewed the rezone application of the property owned by Jeffrey Peterson of 33002 Diamond Rd from rural residential to light industrial commercial use. The property will be used for private laundry services for resorts. There will be a site visit on Monday, July 10th at 11:15am and a public hearing on July 12, 2023 at 9am.

Chair Clayton reviewed the findings of facts and will return it to the Environmental Services Department.

1. Are terms of the rezone consistent with the Harris Township Comprehensive Plan?

Supervisor Kelley:	Yes
Supervisor Gilbert:	Yes
Supervisor Davies:	Yes
Supervisor Schack:	Yes
Madam Chair Clayton:	Yes

2. Will this request be considered a spot rezone?

Supervisor Kelley:	No
Supervisor Gilbert:	No
Supervisor Davies:	No
Supervisor Schack:	No
Madam Chair Clayton:	No

3. If granted, will the rezone maintain the essential character of the neighborhood?
 - Supervisor Kelley: Yes
 - Supervisor Gilbert: Yes
 - Supervisor Davies: Yes
 - Supervisor Schack: Yes
 - Madam Chair Clayton: Yes

4. Have environmental concerns or precautions been addressed?
 - Supervisor Kelley: Yes
 - Supervisor Gilbert: Yes
 - Supervisor Davies: Yes
 - Supervisor Schack: Yes
 - Madam Chair Clayton: Yes

5. Have boundary/property lines been found, correctly identified, and agreed upon by all property owners involved?
 - Supervisor Kelley: Yes
 - Supervisor Gilbert: Yes
 - Supervisor Davies: Yes
 - Supervisor Schack: Yes
 - Madam Chair Clayton: Yes

6. Will the site have sufficient vehicle access in and out of the property, and will there be adequate parking space (if available)?
 - Supervisor Kelley: Yes
 - Supervisor Gilbert: Yes
 - Supervisor Davies: Yes
 - Supervisor Schack: Yes
 - Madam Chair Clayton: Yes

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to recommend the approval of the request to rezone the property of Jeffrey Peterson, of 33002 Diamond Rd, from rural residential to light industrial commercial use. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Bills

Payment of Bills

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed the June 28, 2023 Claims List.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve and pay the bills, claims #21019 through #21032, and EFTs 6282301 through #EFT 6282307 in the corrected amount of \$26,755.55. Ayes-5; Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Input

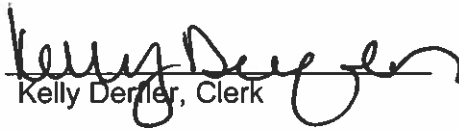
There was no public input.

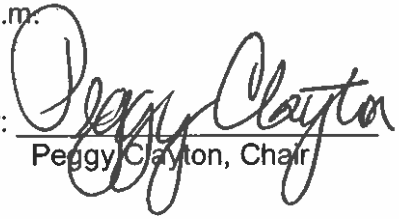
UPCOMING Events/Meetings

July 10, 2023	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00 p.m. Town Hall
July 12, 2023	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 p.m. Town Hall
July 14, 2023	Work Session Re: Mishawaka Landing, Grant Opportunities, Fight Blight, Crystal Park, And Road Signage	5:00 p.m. Town Hall
July 26, 2023	P and D Board Meeting	7:30 p.m. Town Hall
August 9, 2023	Regular Board Meeting	7:30 p.m. Town Hall

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Schack to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Prepared by: 
Kelly Denler, Clerk

Signed by: 
Peggy Clayton, Chair