

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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Supervisor Ryan Davies 929-0610
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Harris Township
SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

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.

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Work Session

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

July 14, 2023

5 pm Harris Town Hall

Present: Madam Chair Clayton, Vice-Chair Schack, Supervisors Davies, Gilbert, Kelley, and Clerk Derfler
Others Present: Sarah Carling / CEDA

The Work Session was called to order at 5:00 pm by Madam Chair Clayton.

The pledge to the flag was conducted.

The purpose of the session was to discuss the Mishawaka Landing, Grant Opportunities, Fight Blight, Crystal Park, and Road Signage.

Mishawaka Landing

Supervisor Kelley stated that all the material for the Mishawaka Landing project has been received. Casper Construction is projecting starting the project around the end of August, 2023. The project is expected to take 4-5 days.

Sarah inquired about the next landing that will be worked on. The board will schedule a site visit for Casper Landing and Picnic Park.

Chair Clayton suggested that the board do a public access tour this fall.

Grant Opportunities

Chair Clayton stated that there is a Culture and Tourism Grant available from the Minnesota Mining Industry and the IRRR. The township could apply for the second cycle, January 2 – January 31, 2024. The grant matches up to \$30,000.00. There is not a maximum on the Trails grant. There is also a grant available for grant writing fees, matching up to \$6,000.00.

Sarah stated that they prefer the project be started within 6 months of the award date. There are extensions that can be applied for, up to three years.

The board stated that since there is grant money already assigned for Wendigo Park, that the grant would best be used for projects within that park. The basketball and tennis courts need to be resurfaced. There were quotes received from Hawkinson and Morrison Seal Coating, but Morrison pulled their quote due to lack of employees.

Sarah will assist in getting more contacts for bids. She asked that the board prepare a spreadsheet, broken down by item, with costs, what money the township will be contributing, grant money already received, and timelines for the project(s). This will allow her to see the overall budget and search for other grants that may be available.

Crystal Park

Supervisor Gilbert reviewed the sketch for Crystal Park with the board. The sketch includes a walking trail, disc golf, shade sails, a soccer field in an otherwise unused space, workout stations, a dog park in the existing hockey rink, and more. There is concern over the maintenance of the new spaces.

Sarah stated that, given the scale of the project, a community survey and canvassing the public would be necessary to ensure that the community is in favor of the project. She suggested the board determine the projects within the park that they would like to move forward with. She also recommended the board find park projects that would be unique to the area.

Supervisor Gilbert that there is tansy present in the pollinator garden. He asked if maintenance will be taking care of that or should he remove it. The weed inspector for the township is the only person that should be disposing of noxious weeds.

Chair Clayton stated that they should meet with the master gardener again and form a plan for moving forward with the pollinator garden.

Road Signage

Chair Clayton provided the board with samples for "share the road" and "children at play" signs. The board discussed which signs would be necessary and where the signs should be located.

The board also discussed the speed signs and locations for installation.

There should also be brush clearing in front of the 45mph signs on Wendigo Park Rd for better visibility.

Four "share the road" signs total will be purchased for Sunny Beach Rd and Wendigo Park Rd. Two "share the road" signs will be on each end of Sunny Beach Rd. Two more "share the road" signs will be for each end of Wendigo Park Rd.

Two speed signs total will be purchased for Wendigo Park Rd. One for the corner going south towards Sunny Beach Rd. and one coming off the swamp going up the hill.

Fight Blight

Chair Clayton shared some dates that are available for Fight Blight. The board determined that three days would be best.

The dates chosen were September 14-16 from 9am-5pm at the Service Center. Environmental Services will provide the dumpsters and pick up as needed. Volunteers will be needed for the event.

The event will be advertised in the newspaper, on Facebook, and on the website.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gilbert and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Submitted by:


Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by:


Peggy Clayton, Madam Chair