

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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Grand Rapids, MN 55744
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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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Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Mission Statement:

The Harris Town Board strives 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 August 23, 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

July 26, 2023, P & D Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Minutes of the July 26, 2023 Planning and Development Meeting. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

August 14, 2023, Hughes Road Site Visit Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2023 Hughes Road Site Visit. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Additions and Corrections

Chair Clayton requested to add scheduling a meeting with Environmental Services in addition to Fight Blight Days as item 11.A. under Old Business.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve the P and D Agenda with the addition of scheduling a meeting with Environmental Services in addition to Fight Blight Days as item 11.A. under Old Business. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Business from the Floor

Pine Landing Drive Request

Dave Protelsch, of 19544 Pine Landing Drive, approached the board to request information regarding vacating a portion of an easement for a potential cul-de-sac in order to build a storage building.

The board recommended that Dave contact his attorney or the Township Attorney to gather the necessary paperwork to start the process. There will be a required petition of neighbor signatures and a public hearing in the later stage of the process. Chair Clayton will contact Andy Shaw, the Township Attorney, to update him on the potential vacate.

**Consent Agenda
SSTS Permits
Zoning Land Use Permits**

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve the Consent Agenda as delineated above. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Roads

Roads Update

Supervisor Kelley stated that the final shaping of Aspen Drive, Mishawaka Shores, and Mishawaka Road will be done on August 25, with paving to be done between August 30-31. The sub-cut and culvert replacement on Mishawaka Shores and the sub-cut on Mishawaka Road is finished.

The shouldering on Sunny Beach Road is complete.

Gravel roads are in good condition, despite some wash-boarding. Gravel contracts to be discussed at September meeting.

Recreation

Park and Cemetery Inspection Reports for July 2023

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

Mishawaka Landing

Supervisor Kelley stated that Casper Construction is planning to begin construction on Mishawaka Landing beginning September 5 and continuing through September 8. Hawkinson will be completing the tar portion following Casper's completion. The Township Facebook page will be updated with closures for construction dates.

Quote for Tree Removal at Wendigo Park and Sunny Beach Rd

Supervisor Schack reviewed the quote received from Plackner Tree Care to remove two standing dead trees from Wendigo Park and one standing dead tree from Sunny Beach Rd. The Township Facebook page will be updated with the tree removal dates for safety purposes.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the quoted price of \$2,800.00 by Plackner Tree Care to remove two trees from Wendigo Park and one tree from Sunny Beach Rd. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Weed Inspection Report

Supervisor Gilbert shared that Lilies and Fireweed are in bloom. Noxious weeds are taking over due to the drought conditions. If Tansy is problematic, he suggests cutting it down with a mower and using a fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, in the fall.

Sunny Beach Rd Culvert for Driftskippers

Supervisor Kelley shared that the Driftskippers will be moving their snowmobile crossing on Sunny Beach Rd to a safer portion of the road. The club asked if Harris Township would cover the cost of the culvert for the new trail. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Chair Clayton to approve the cost of the culvert for the Driftskippers Snowmobile Club's new trail crossing on Sunny Beach Rd. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Correspondence

Trails Task Force Minutes of July 2023

Informational.

Town Hall

Town Hall Report for July 2023

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

Maintenance

Maintenance Report for July 2023

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Maintenance Report for July 2023. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Old Business

Fight Blight

Chair Clayton reviewed the dates of the Fight Blight Event that is scheduled for September 14-16 from 9am-5pm at the Harris Township Service Center on 20876 Wendigo Park Rd. Volunteers will be needed to assist in the event. The list of acceptable and non-acceptable items is listed on the Township Facebook page and on the Township Website. The event will also be published in the Grand Rapids Herald Review.

Chair Clayton stated that Greg Stoltz, of Environmental Services requested to schedule a meeting with volunteers to discuss the Fight Blight Event. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve scheduling a meeting on September 13, 2023 at 5:30pm at the Harris Township Service Center with Environmental Services to discuss the Fight Blight Event with Volunteers. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Newsletter

Chair Clayton shared that the Harris Township Newsletter was mailed out on August 21, 2023. If residents do not receive the Newsletter by Monday, August 29, 2023, they can contact the Township for a copy.

New Business

Lake Country Power Easement

Chair Clayton reviewed a request received from Lake Country Power for a Right-of-Way Easement for the property of Jacob Wunderlich.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kelley and seconded by Supervisor Davies to approve the Right-of-Way Easement for Lake Country Power at the property of Jacob Wunderlich. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Bills

Payment of Bills

Treasurer Kopacek reviewed the August 23, 2023 Claims List.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to approve and pay the bills, claims #21107 through #21123, and EFTs 8232301 through #EFT 8232306 in the amount of \$449,532.58. Ayes-5; Nays-0; Motion carried.

Public Input

There was no Public Input.

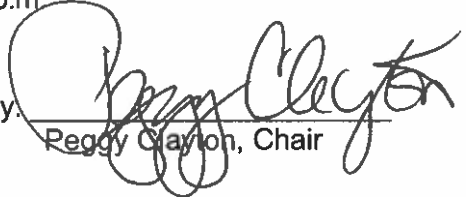
UPCOMING Events/Meetings

September 11, 2023	Itasca County Township Association Meeting	7:00pm Town Hall
September 13, 2023	Fight Blight / Environmental Services Volunteer Meeting	5:30pm Service Center
September 13, 2023	Regular Board Meeting	7:30pm Town Hall
September 14-16, 2023	Fight Blight Event	9:00pm – 5:00pm Service Center
September 18, 2023	Site Visit – Wendigo Picnic Park and Casper Landing	6:00pm Meet at Town Hall

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Supervisor Schack and seconded by Supervisor Davies to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m

Prepared by: 
Kelly Derfler, Clerk

Signed by: 
Peggy Clayton, Chair