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Harris Township
SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

August 2023

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

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Some helpful Township meeting tips....

The board holds meetings the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. The topic of road work is always discussed at every meeting, along with recreation, maintenance, and our town hall, to name a few. Meeting agendas are posted on our FB page before every board meeting, to let our constituents know what the board will be discussing.

If you can't make one of our meetings in person, meetings are always "live" by ICTV. All board meeting minutes, and work session minutes are also in our agenda packets and on our website.

Harris Township Fight Blight Days September 14-16, 2023

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
9 AM-5 PM

Harris Town Service Center
20876 Wendigo Park Road

Three dumpsters will be located at the Harris Town Service Center, located at 20876 Wendigo Park Road.

Attendants will be on site, and IDs will be checked to verify you are a "Harris Township Resident."

The area will be monitored. Once items are dropped off, they CANNOT be picked up by other residents.

****This area will be closed, gated after 5:00 pm, and under security after hours!****

Message from the Chair.....

Summer is here and I refuse to let it go!

The Board has been busy with 2023 road projects, maintenance of ditches/mowing, our parks and our cemetery. With almost 35 miles of township roads, there is always something to maintain.

In 2023, Harris Township acquired the City of Grand Rapids portion of Islevie Road. In 2025, Islevie Road will see road construction action!

The best laid plans in road construction can produce changes and delays as to when the actual road work will begin, due to contractors, weather, soil testing, scheduling, surrounding events, etc. The board always discusses “roads” at our board meetings, and FB is also a good source for upcoming events, etc. If you are ever wondering, or in doubt.....attend our meetings, watch us “live” the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, or check out our website for agendas, agenda packets, and meeting minutes.

Kelly Derfler is our new Township Clerk. Her experiences and organizing skills are greatly appreciated as this township is always hopping!

We are excited about our Flowers for Pollinators project at Crystal Springs Park. When visiting the park, you may notice maintenance working in the fenced in area. By spring of 2024, this garden will be ready for the pollinators!

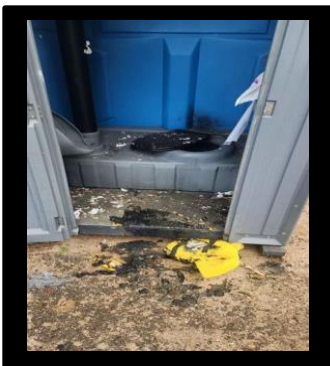
The board is also exploring adding disc golf, and a walking trail at the park, with a few other projects surrounding these additions.

Last, but definitely not least.... we have experienced vandalism at our landings and parks over the last two months. These become setbacks for our maintenance staff (as they work hard to keep our township properties clean but shows a lack of respect for our parks and properties! Security works wonders at the end of the day!

Our parks are an important part of Harris Township, whether it is summer or winter. Our rinks at both parks are also getting “TLC” so they are ready for winter activities.

If you do need to get ahold of board members, please do not hesitate to call on us, as we are here for all of you and will continue to strive to make Harris Township the best in Itasca County!

**Peggy Clayton
Madam Chair**



Roads, Roads & Roads!

Did you know that Harris Township has 34.93 miles of roads? The township has a five-year road plan and here are our 2023 Road projects.

Aspen Drive will be reclaimed with pave/base coat this year, and we are on course to complete the road this year.

Mishawaka Shores will be reclaimed with pave/base coat this year, and will also be completed this fall.

Mishawaka Road will be reclaimed and paved, along with culvert repair base.

Projects should be completed by the end of August.

Hawkinson Construction is the contractor.



Highway Cleanup in Harris Township was completed by the Board Members in May.

Concerned Residents also helped out in June.



Wendigo and Crystal Parks

The board received a \$100,000 Blandin Foundation grant in 2022 and is actively working on matching grants.

These funds will be used to resurface the Wendigo Park tennis courts and basketball courts, and crack sealing and resurfacing the Crystal Springs tennis courts and basketball courts.

Flowers for Pollinators Garden

The board approved building a “flowers for pollinator” garden at Crystal Springs Park. We have a large fenced in area that we decided to utilize the space for the garden.

Master gardener, Bonnie Seigford, toured the area and provided her expertise on how to get our garden in place.

Maintenance will be working in that area the first week of August to ready it for spring planting.

When all is said and done, the garden will be filled with pollinating plants, along with a walking trail, a bench, and a waterfall. We are excited for this to happen in our park.



Harris Township
c/o Peg Clayton
20876 Wendigo Park Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

LIFEJACKET LOANER STATIONS

If you are fishing on Pokegama and landed your boat at one of our boat landings....you probably noticed the "lifejacket loaner stations."

If not, here are pictures of the stations!

LaPlant, Casper, and Mishawaka. Mishawaka currently has a temporary station until the construction work is completed at that landing. Once it is completed, then a permanent station will be in place.

We would ask that you be courteous and respectful with regard to these life jackets and the station. If you use one, return it for the next person. There are a few different sizes for adults and children.

