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Harris Township SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

July 2022

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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CLERK NEEDED!!

We are looking for a Clerk for the Township.

As many of you are aware, Harris Township is quite large and is the biggest Township in Itasca County, alongside the City of Grand Rapids. We do have 2 board meetings a month, but also hold work session as needed. There is quite a bit of activity going on with our Township. The Clerk is always "hopping" with minutes, phone calls, emails, agendas, resolutions, scheduling, budget sessions, researching, notices....to name a few!

The Clerk is the "right hand person" for the Supervisors. If this position interests you, please reach out and I will certainly take the time to sit down and review the complete job description with you and go over a typical month of what the Clerk's duties would entail.

Please call 218-259-1551, and we can set a time.

Summer Greetings From The Chair.....

Harris Township has been terribly busy over the winter and spring, pulling together plans for boat landing expansions, etc., so make sure you read the supervisors articles to "get the latest".

Harris Township will be installing "message boards" at both Crystal Park and Wendigo Park, which we will use to place announcements, baseball practices, soccer games, pavilion reservations, etc. It is great to see our parks being utilized♦♦

I want to thank those constituents who completed the township feedback survey. It appears Harris Township residents are happy with the boards work and direction!

The board has been updating our Comprehensive Plan for Harris Township, and will be finalizing it sometime in July, for final board approval.

Elections are once again upon us. Harris Township will have 3 supervisors terms expiring in November 2022. Filing opens from August 2-August 16, 2022. Please watch for further updates on our Facebook page, website, and published notices in the Heal Review.

Speaking of FB, the Township does have a Facebook page. That page is utilized to provide board agendas, meetings, work done in the township, announcements, etc. to all of our constituents. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to see other activity on that page. We always try and keep our constituents updated and informed.

Hall rentals and pavilion reservations can be made with our Caretaker, Terri, by calling 218-398-5033 to reserve. June was filled with bridal and baby showers, and graduation parties!

If concerns, questions, and/or issues arise within the township, I am only a phone call away (218-259-1551), so please reach out at any time.

Thank you for your continued support to the Harris Town Board and our beautiful township!

Be safe....Stay healthy!

Chair Peggy Clayton

Supervisor Ryan Davies

Hello to the Residents of Harris Township. I am thankful to the board for the opportunity to help serve the community.

My first year on the Harris township board has been remarkably busy with meetings, inspections, and more meetings!

The board has spent a significant amount of time working on boat landing plans, as well as improvements to the parks of the township.

Harris Township has a few projects that are long overdue, and I am happy the board is working together to improve these facilities.

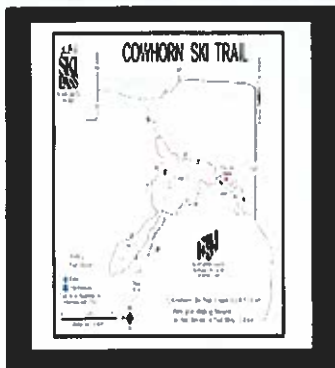
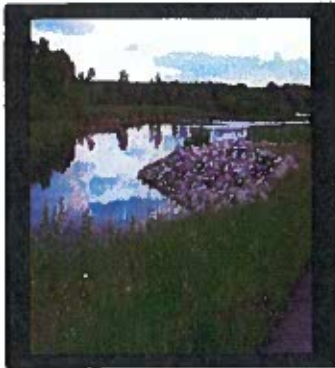
It will be rewarding to see several of these developments get finished this year.

Please reach out with any questions.

Ryan Davies

218-929-0610

Email: supervisorahp@gmail.com



Vice-Chair Michael Schack

Greetings!

Just a few notes about the committee's I am currently working on.

First, the Trails Task Force is a group of representatives of various snowmobile, ATV, biking, hiking, skiing, and horseback riding groups, plus city representation and promoters of tourism. We meet monthly to discuss projects and trails. The main goal is to help these groups to utilize funding donations from the very generous Blandin Foundation. This money helps provide trail signage, purchase of equipment, materials and more. There are miles of trails of all varieties in the area, which of course need to be maintained! Also, our trail system is a great draw for tourism, which is growing at a fast rate in this area. Also, I would like to give a big shout to the many volunteers who maintain these trails!

I have written previously about Firewise, this is all about keeping a defensive area around your house and the main premises. This is to keep tall grass, brush, conifers, a safe distance away from your home in case of a wildfire. For more info contact me at supervisorehpt@gmail.com or call 218-340-88522.

I am always available here in beautiful Harris Township!

Thank you!

Mike Schack

Supervisor Jim Kelley

This year has gotten off to an up and down weather start. Temperatures are cooler and storms with heavy rain seem to be a weekly thing. We have had trees down, but only minor washouts on some shoulders. This has kept our maintenance crews busy with clean-up and getting the ditches mowed.

The big news of this summer is that Sunny Beach Road is moving forward and is in the final approval phase from the State. The low bidder was Hawkinson Construction at \$1,731,486.25, with an engineer's estimate of \$1,524,503.55. The main reason for the difference is oil cost. As you may remember, the Township received a \$1,250,000.00 grant to do this project, leaving the Townships cost at \$481,486.25 plus all engineering expenses. This project will consist of full depth reclamation (grading up the current road and leaving it in place to improve the road base), sub-cutting the areas where the frost heaves are happening, sub-cutting and building up the low area that floods at times, replacing a few culverts and repaving. As this project moves forward there may be times when the road will be closed in places where the sub-cuts are being done, but you will have access to your homes. Work on Sunny Beach Road is planned to start in sometime in late September with completion by October 15th.

Other projects include the Mishawaka and Woodtick Landings, parking lot improvements and Laplant Landing boat ramp to be replaced. These projects are a joint venture between Harris Township and the DNR.

Hope you all are having a great summer! For any questions feel free to call.

Jim Kelley
218-259-0317



Supervisor Dan Gilbert

I have been inspecting the Harris Township owned roads and properties for noxious weeds and I would like to report on a few interesting things. Most obviously, Tansy and Poison Ivy (Western and Common) are sporadically throughout Harris. We also have Canadian Thistle, Common Thistle, and Greater Burdock (Cocklebur) in some parts of the township. Common Parsnip (Cow Parsnip) which is white, can also be seen in different areas in the township. But I am happy to report that we do not have any Wild Parsnip, which is yellow in color and can cause harm to humans! If you do suspect you have Wild Parsnip, do not touch it, and please contact me for further analysis.

On another note, we have wild grapes, cherries, plums, asparagus, and quite a few lilies. Some of the lilies that are around are Tiger Lilies, Canadian Lilies, Wood Lilies, Fire Lilies, and Meadow Lilies. Always remember to plant native plants whenever possible, for local Bees, Butterflies, and Birds.

If you are looking to use a fast non-toxic weed eradicator, you can use boiling hot water for a simple solution. For a more in-depth solution, you can use a gallon of 5% or more acidity vinegar, two cups of Epsom salt, and a quarter cup of dawn dish soap in a spray bottle. Be aware, this solution will change the PH level of your soil.

If you ever have any questions about the noxious weeds in our township, you can email me at supervisorbhtp@gmail.com



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

Get to Know Your Neighbor (and Harris Township Business) by Dan Butterfield

One of our Harris Township residents is Reed Ylitalo. He is the owner of RTY Construction and Wings and Walleyes guide service. His construction company does everything from whole house builds, remodeling, continuous gutter work to much more. He also guides year-round for fishing in our area, as well as waterfowl hunting locally and as far south as Kansas.

Reed has been a sports nut from an early age. He played hockey for Greenway and can still be seen wearing a green helmet when coaching his son. I try not to hold that against him. He loves fishing of all kinds, using his boat or his fish houses. He comes from a fishing family and now he is raising one. Both children like to be on the water, or ice with a rod in their hands. He is married to our daughter Lori, another hunting and fishing nut, and they have blessed us with two grandchildren. Reed's Dad Tom also lives in Harris Township.

Reed can be found on the web and Facebook, (Wings and Walleyes guise service) or (218) 259-0354. He is a Mn. licensed contractor and a great guide, according to the reviews. Reed is also a pretty nice son-in-law., in my opinion!

