

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
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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

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 Beth Riendeau 244-1811
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Boat Landings Work Session

July 12, 2021

3:00 pm Harris Townhall

Present: Madam Chair Peggy Clayton, Vice Chair Schack, Supervisors Ryan Davies and Dan Gilbert; Clerk Riendeau

Others Present: Sarah Carling, CEDA, Kacie Staneck DNR and Burl Ives Itasca County Commissioner

Pledge to the Flag was conducted

The purpose of the work session was to look at all of the boat landings (Mishawaka, LaPlant, Robinson, Casper and Wood Tick) in Harris Township, with the hope of making some improvements for the betterment of the landings.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to recess at 3:20 pm to allow for driving to Mishawaka Landing. Motion carried.

Mishawaka Landing

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to reconvene at 3:30 pm at Mishawaka Landing. Motion carried.

The group met at Mishawaka Landing located on Mishawaka Road. This specific landing has always been a point of contention, as far as parking as Mishawaka Landing is heavily used by participants. The group and DNR had ideas to put new ramps in, take out the asphalt and put crushed concrete, make a possible double landing, and help with new docks. The DNR has the equipment needed to make these changes.

Discussion was held on removing the picnic area to allow for the possibility of 12 additional parking spots. Trees would need to be removed, the bank would need to be knocked down, and the retaining wall would also need to be removed.

There is 460 acres of land owned by Hawkinson across the boat landing that Harris Township could possibly purchase a few acres for parking.

The group discussed a washing station for Mishawaka boat landing.

LaPlant Landing

The work session reconvened at 4:17 pm to 4:33 pm at LaPlant Landing.

LaPlant Landing was one that showed signs of a washout. Discussion followed. This landing could also use redesign, as it is very limited on turning around/parking.

Discussion from the group and DNR for this landing was to have the property lines surveyed as there may be more land available beyond a fence that is put up. Take out the small planks and put large ones in and start the planks up higher on the landing, also straighten out the ramp. DNR would put a new dock in, take asphalt out and add crushed concrete. There may be a possibility to purchase land across the road from the boat landing for parking.

Robinson Landing

The work session reconvened at 4:39 pm to 4:52 pm at Robinson Landing.

Robinson Landing does get washout on both sides of the landing. Discussion held for Robinson landing included adding planks, dig out the hill and put in a retaining wall. This would allow for 8 more possible parking spots. The group also talked about just making this a beach area for swimmers.

Casper Landing

The work session reconvened at 4:59 pm to 5:20 pm at Casper Landing.

This landing is a heavily used area for boaters and for swimmers, (even though there are signs denoting no swimming). Additional parking was suggested, along with a picnic area, and the possibility of a swimming beach, which was in place many years ago.

Discussion held on the fenced area on the hill. A good portion of the neighbors garden is on township property. Years ago, the township put up the current fence due to people moving around on the neighbor's property. The group discussed taking the hill and the fence out and making this area into a beach without the boat access.

Parking is an issue. A more suitable picnic area etc. could be put in place, along with additional parking, if the property would be taken back. The road into this landing does belong to the township, except for a very small portion/corner which belongs to the neighbor. Getting the property back would also allow for more parking, putting in a swimming beach, etc.

A lot could be done with redesign of this landing. There is also another smaller boat landing about 100 yards away. Discussion was held on whether or not this is Harris Townships boat landing. If the smaller landing does belong to Harris Township there was discussion about making that the boat access and using the larger area as a swimming/recreational area as well as parking.


Woodtick Landing

The work session reconvened at 5:27 pm at Woodtick Landing.

This landing is very small but does have boat access. Discussion held on putting some new planks in and a floating dock. The DNR could clear the muck out of the water 30 feet from shore.

A motion was made by Supervisor Davies and seconded by Supervisor Schack to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 pm.

Submitted by: 
Beth Riendeau, Clerk

Signed by: 
Peggy Clayton, Chair