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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](http://www.harristownshipmn.org)

## A Message from the Chair...

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Message from the Chair	1
Annual Meeting	1
Cemetery Sexton	2
Firewise & Trails	2
Meeting Schedule	2
Rinks & Roads!	2
Cemetery Sexton	3
Right of Ways	3
Local Business	4

Message from the Chair.....

Happy New Year Harris Township! Can't believe in the past two months we breezed through 3 holidays so fast!

The Board will be busy in 2019 with a variety of projects. We are already pulling together 2019 Road projects, as roads are and will remain our #1 priority.

Our annual township meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 7:00 pm. Please make note of this time change. We hope you can make it as this is "your meeting"! This meeting will also be live on "ICTV".

At our November 2018 elections, Supervisors Haubrich, Kelley, and Schack were re-elected, and took their oath of office at the January 9th Regular Meeting. Our Treasurer Becky Adams term expired at the end of December (and she chose not to run), was appointed as Interim Treasurer, and she took the oath of office on January 9th.

The board held their reorganization at the January 9th Regular Meeting. Peggy Clayton was re-elected Chair, and Ken Haubrich was elected Vice Chair.

Also, on our November ballot was "appointed vs. Elected" Clerk and Treasurer question. Harris voters were heard, and we now have an "appointed" vs. elected Clerk and Treasurer. Our interim Treasurer Becky Adams will stay on until we appoint a replacement. We will be posting the Treasurer position at the end of March. Those applying will not need to be a resident of Harris Township, but will need to meet qualifications for the position. The Clerk position will become an appointed position in November 2020, when the term expires.

The Board has updated the Cemetery Policy, and even though there are not a lot of major changes in the policy, we want to bring attention to the placement of flowers at the grave sites of your loved ones. We would ask that keeping to the policy of shepherd hooks being used for flowers is important, especially when it comes to mowing and trimming around headstones.

The board will also be filling the town hall caretaker vacancy. The board approved the job description and the position should be open for accepting resumes, no later than the end of January. The Board will also be updating the town hall rental policy and lease agreement.

Wendigo Rink and Crystal Park Rink are open for your skating enjoyment. If we do have rink closings due to inclement weather, those closings will be posted on FB. Speaking of FB, upcoming meetings, work sessions, events, etc. will continue to be posted on FB so you get the latest and greatest township news!

Our parks are an important part of Harris Township, whether it is summer or winter.

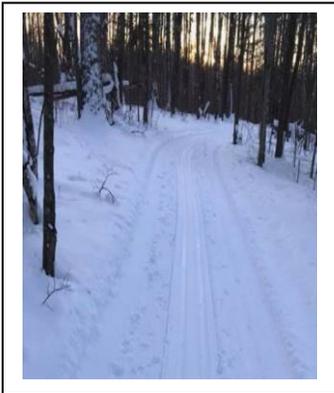
If you do need to get ahold of board members, please do not hesitate to call on us, as we are here for all of you, and will continue to strive to make Harris Township the best in Itasca County!

Peggy Clayton

Madam Chair

The 2019 Annual Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Harris Town Hall. The 2020 proposed budget and levy will be discussed and voted upon by Harris Township residents in attendance.





## FIREWISE & TRAILS by Michael Schack

Greetings!

It is hard to believe it is 2019 already! The Township Board has worked hard as a whole with everyone finding their niche.

I have found that I have learned a tremendous amount of knowledge by my participation in the FIREWISE Committee. We should all think more about protecting our properties and belongings, California fires should be an eye opener for us! I will bring forth more information this spring, there have been budget cuts, shifting in priorities and responsibilities, so stay tuned!

The Trails Taskforce has so much information regarding area trails and their impact on the community, I cannot report it all here! We are lucky to have active volunteers to keep our trails open.

I am looking forward to serving all the residents of Harris Township. I appreciate your confidence in my abilities and will do my best for you.

Please contact me at 218-310-8852 or [supervisorehpt@gmail.com](mailto:supervisorehpt@gmail.com)

### Harris Township 2019 Meeting Schedule

The Harris Town Board will meet on the following dates in 2019, with the meetings starting at 7:30 p.m., and held at the Harris Town Hall, 21998 Airport Road.

- Regular Meeting January 10
- P & D Meeting January 24
- Regular Meeting February 14
- P & D Meeting February 28
- Regular Meeting March 14
- P & D Meeting March 28
- Regular Meeting April 11
- P & D Meeting April 25
- Regular Meeting May 9
- P & D Meeting May 23
- Regular Meeting June 13
- P & D Meeting June 27
- Regular Meeting July 11
- P & D Meeting July 25
- Regular Meeting August 8
- P & D Meeting August 22
- Regular Meeting September 12
- P & D Meeting September 26
- Regular Meeting October 10
- P & D Meeting October 24
- Regular Meeting November 14
- P & D Meeting November 28
- Regular Meeting December 12

## Rinks & Roads! Jim Kelley

First, let me say thank you, for letting me serve another term on Harris Town Board. After a rough start due to warm temperatures and winter now in full swing the ice rinks are finally open. The ice has been a little rough through the first part of January, but after the last flooding they should be in good shape to finish out the year. The warming shacks at rinks are open 4pm-8pm Monday thru Friday and 12pm-8pm Saturday and Sunday.

As some of you know the 2018 road paving projects did not get completed this year due to the wet fall. So, after talking with the road contractor, the township engineer and the board it was decided to postpone the work until 2019 to get a better-quality job. The hope is to have the 2019 road project ready to go early so all these roads can be completed by July.

Over the last couple of months, the board has been thinking about adding a TV to the town hall for meeting purposes. The new TV will be installed in the next week or so. This will enable those watching the meeting at home to get a better understanding on some of the items that come before the board. It will also help in the review of budgets.

Hope everyone has a great year and feel free to call if the need arises. I appreciate the phone calls.

Jim



# Cemetery Sexton

Harris Township Residents:

My name is Kati Pierce, I serve as your Sexton for the Harris Township Cemetery.

In this capacity, I have worked diligently with the Board Supervisors to bring the cemetery into compliance with Minnesota State Statutes and to establish a user-friendly website for your convenience.

Located on the website, <https://www.harristownshipmn.org> is a cemetery tab on the left sidebar. This link allows the user to view the cemetery books.

The main cemetery page has a block map. This map corresponds to the cemetery block with links under Sections 1, 2 and 3 allowing the user to check availability and site locations of loved ones. Township cemetery policies and rates have also been updated and are available online.

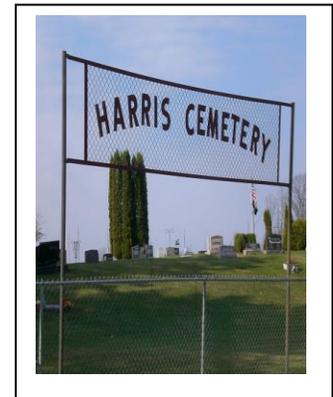
Please feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns in preparing for a loved ones burial.

I look forward to continuing to serve you and the Board.

Kati Pierce

Harris Township Deputy Clerk, Sexton

(218)256-7411



## RIGHT OF WAYS By Ken Haubrich

An Update on Right of Way Maintenance

In the last issue of the Township News Letter I wrote about Township Right of Ways and some of the reasons for doing maintenance on Township Right of Ways. In this article I want to share with you what has happened since.

The Board of Supervisors conduct annual Township road tours every year, and one or two supervisors make regular monthly road inspections as well. A couple of years ago, during an annual road tour, the Board realized that Right of Way maintenance needed to be a priority. In 2017, Nancy Drive Right of Way was determined to be the first project, and in 2018 Stony Point and Wendigo Park Circle. Because the present Board had no experience in doing this type of project, The Board decided to use a contractor on Nancy Drive and the Township's maintenance person, as well as temporary labor to accomplish the work on Stony Point and Wendigo Park Circle.

So, what happened? The Nancy Drive project's major work was done in about week. There were a few stumps that were close to the roadway and there was concern they would interfere with snowplowing. This additional work didn't proceed until the Board could meet to decide on the stump removal.

September 2018, Stony Point Road project was completed in about ten days. It was a combination of our crew and a contractor. Because of overhead power lines a contractor with the proper equipment was contracted to remove trees for safety reasons.

Finally, October 2018, Wendigo Park Circle project was done entirely by our crew. The project took all of October and there is still some clean-up to be done this spring. Mechanical breakdowns and weather slowed progress on the project.

The Board will now need to look at the issues, costs, what worked well, what not so well, and determine a path forward.

Ken Haubrich

Supervisor A



Harris Township  
c/o Cari Ann Alleman, Clerk  
20876 Wendigo Park Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744



About 40 years ago, a quiet little business began selling and servicing boats in Harris Township. It all started in a back yard on Sunny Beach Road. This business, T & M Marine, is not quite so small anymore! They have since expanded into Grand Rapids, Cohasset, Isle and as far away as Brisbane Australia.

Their roots can still be seen today as they have 1 holding/customer storage and 1 holding lot still in Harris Township. Every fall, these empty lots slowly fill to capacity with new pontoon boats for the following years sales. T & M Marine manufactures 25-30% of the pontoons they sell every year. The pontoons you see on the lots are made in Alma Michigan, by Tahoe/Avalon pontoons, they are designed by T & M, made to their specifications, and private labeled now as "Grand Island."

T & M Marine ships their pontoons both domestically and internationally. They have shipped to countries such as Belize, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Ukraine, Morocco, Russia, Ethiopia and more. Some of the customers have had time to enjoy the activities that the Harris area has to offer. A customer from Osaka, Japan was able to go for an ATV ride, attend a Township resident's graduation party, tour Pokegama Lake and end it with a great lakeside bonfire! Another customer from Ethiopia enjoyed clay target shooting, as well as float flying off Pokegama Lake. This is just a few examples of how our great Township has both entertained and wowed guests from all over the world.

For domestic shipments, T & M hires local drivers, many of which are retired and run as husband and wife teams. They enjoy being paid to tour the country and have been enjoying this occupation for 10+ years. Low turnover not only in this area, but all the occupations within T & M Marine, has been one of the keys to success for this local business.

In conclusion, Harris Township is not only a great place to live but has offered this small business a place to start, grow and flourish far beyond the township.