

# ONEKAMA VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2014

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At 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2014, Co-Chairperson Jon Phillips opened the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee regular monthly meeting in the Onekama Township Hall. Agendas were distributed. Other Committee members present were Howard Hughes, co-chairperson; Mary Lou Millard, vice chairperson; Tom Gerhardt, secretary-treasurer; Leann Burger; Roger Burger; Ken Franklin; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed.

***Winter Meetings***—If the Onekama School is closed for a snow day on the day of a meeting for the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Committee will not meet either.

***Additions to the Agenda***—Co-Chairperson Phillips asked for additions to the agenda. Co-Chairperson Hughes said that he noticed **there is money remaining in the Township's General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities**. He would like to see the dead trees removed in Glen Park, which have been previously identified. This item was added at the end of the agenda.

***Approval of the Minutes of September 18, 2014***—Vice Chairperson Millard moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2014, meeting be approved. Leann Burger seconded the motion; the motion carried.

***Secretary-Treasurer's Report***—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the financial report for the North Point Park Fund. Since he did not have the bank statement for September, he gave the balance on August 31, 2014, which was \$18,826.76. Gerhardt said that the Township has not deposited the extra \$1,000 for the well to the North Point Park Fund, which the Board voted at its May 6 meeting to accompany the \$8,000 previously deposited.

Phillips said that he would remind the Township that they still owe the \$1,000. Phillips also said that he is going to ask the Township to pay the expenses of the Parks Appreciation Day, which are approximately \$700, from the General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities.

Gerhardt said that Consumers Power was paid \$442 from the North Point Park Fund for installation of the underground service for the well at North Point Park. The installation

requires boring under the entrance road, so a permit from the Manistee County Road Commission is required, which Consumers is to obtain. **The address for the meter at North Point Park is 8799 Greenway.** Phillips said that the well at the Park probably will not be drilled until spring.

Gerhardt noted that **\$65 had been paid to Consumers for the pole connection at the M-DNR Launch Site to light the Pierhead Light. This amount was paid from the Pierhead Light Fund, which is a part of the General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities. The address for this meter is 8689 West Fairway.**

**[Gerhardt received a telephone call after the meeting from Jan Hanzel at Onekama Marine. She said that in the list of donors for the Pierhead Light, Ralph Baker should be listed as "Nick Baker."]**

**Tree Subcommittee**—Mueller, chairperson of the Tree Subcommittee, reported that he **had not been able to schedule an on-site visit with the irrigation company previously recommended by Township Supervisor David Meister for the watering of selected trees at North Point Park. Mueller is contacting Lance's Irrigation in Manistee and Betsie Valley Irrigation at Thompsonville to see if these companies could submit quotes on the installation of the system, which would be supplied by the new well at the Park. A mid-November meeting of the Subcommittee is planned.**

**Explore the Shores Subcommittee**—Phillips reported that an **email had been received on October 4, 2014, from Tim Ervin, regarding the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for improvements at Langland Park.** It reads as follows:

"Met with DNR program staff in Lansing yesterday. The initial score was 335 out of 520 possible points. Some scoring factors cannot be improved that relate to income, population, etc. We do however **have an opportunity to improve several scores, potentially improving the score by a total of 60-80 points.** If we accomplish that, the project should be competitive for funding. We will make a brief appearance before the Land Trust Fund Board later this year to further promote the importance of the project, and we will know in early December if it is funded. We're sharing this information in the hope it fosters a common understanding of status. If there are questions, please let us know. We will be resubmitting the application with modifications aimed at increasing the score next week."

**Portage Lake Watershed Forever**—Reed reported that **the autumn olive at North Point Park will be treated to control it at a cost of \$750.** She also said that Susan Spencer is director of the Manistee Soil and Water Conservation District, which now has a forester, Josh Shield.

**Park Watchers**—There were no reports.

**Pierhead Light**—Reed had emailed Gerhardt about a speaker for the Pierhead Light dedication on July 5. She and Leann Burger had heard a wonderful presentation by

Terry Pepper on lighthouses, but both agreed that this presentation would be better for an event inside of a building.

**Onekama Consolidated Schools**—The Committee members present were reminded that there are two bond proposals for the Onekama School that will be voted on in the November 4 General Election. The first proposal, which would be for .35 mills (\$0.35 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) over a 15-year period, will address infrastructure—roofs, heating and cooling, safety and security, and busses. The second proposal will address technology and its infrastructure, and be for .27 mills (\$0.27 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 7 years. There is a **tax computer on the School Website ([www.mytaxcalc.com/onekama](http://www.mytaxcalc.com/onekama))** that can be used to calculate the costs to the taxpayers for these millages if they pass.

**Update on the Onekama Village Park**—Roger Burger reported on the shoreline improvement project that has recently been done with MNRTF grant money and local match money in the Onekama Village Park. The beach sand is to be refreshed after a permit is obtained from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. This will probably be next spring. The dedication will be held next year.

Reed asked Burger if any conclusions had been reached from the survey of boating and fishing facilities at area launch sites. Burger said that survey results are still being studied.

Phillips noted that Burger is running unopposed for Village president in the November 4 General Election.

**Portage Lake Association**—Leann Burger reported for the **Portage Lake Association**. The **Fall Festival** was October 11 in the Onekama Village Park. The weather cooperated for the most part (it was a little cool in the morning) and brought a good attendance. The doughnuts were eagerly purchased by many attending, so it was thought that the other vendors did as well. **Christmas in Onekama** is Saturday, November 22, with events beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding with the Celebration of Lights tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. A **ballot for the officers and board members for the upcoming year** was mailed to all PLA members recently.

Roger Burger, in reference to the Petunia Parade as well as other activities **along Main and First Streets** in Onekama, said that **Michigan Department of Transportation wants to know about all activities that involve these routes of M-22. A schedule of these activities is kept at the Village office, so the organizers of events should let the Village know at the first of the year.**

**Outlet Avenue Walk to Community Dock**—Phillips reported that the initial work has been done on the **Outlet Avenue walk to the Community Dock on Portage Lake**. The road end has been surveyed with markers placed; an early concrete walk has been torn out; and a new path for the asphalt walk down the center of the road

end on Portage Lake has been curved and graded to preserve existing trees. **The walk is built to ADA specifications and will be 8-feet wide to accommodate the asphalt paving equipment.** Onekama Township is paying for the work; the contract with Ron Brown & Sons is \$5,043 (pending the specification of the 8-foot width).

A **meeting was held on September 24** with the Township Board; Phillips and Gerhardt of Parks and Recreation; Jim Simons, president of the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation; and resorters present. **Everyone liked the attractive design of the curving walk and the clean appearance of the Outlet Avenue Road End, but some were worried about the width of the walk allowing vehicles to come right down to the Lake.** One attendee parked her car on the path of the new walk! **Plans are to put posts at the end of the walk near Portage Point Road to prevent vehicles from coming on down to the Lake. The stairs are to remain in their present location.**

Reed suggested that a more pervious material than asphalt be used that would not allow surface water to run directly to the Lake.

**Glen Park**—In regard to removing the dead trees that was mentioned by Hughes at the beginning of the meeting, he and Phillips said that they had visually identified the dead trees at the two entrances to Glen Park sometime ago. With money left in the **General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities**, Hughes is suggesting the work be done now as well as the removal of any other tree that has fallen on the trail. Mueller was to join Hughes and Phillips after the meeting to view the needed tree removal in Glen Park.

Phillips also is to have the **“Glen Park” directional sign repainted.** **Mueller asked if the letter had been written requesting the adjoining property owner to the north of Glen Park donate or give an easement for the land on which the trail crosses?** Phillips said that the Township clerk, Helen Mathieu, would do this.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for October 16, 2014, adjourned at 8:50 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., in the Onekama Township Hall. All Committee members are asked to have some ideas for planning activities for 2015. The Committee will not meet in December. A decision about meeting in January will be made on November 20.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer