

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

March 19, 2015

At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015, Chairperson Jon Phillips opened the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee regular monthly meeting in the Onekama Township Hall. Agendas had been distributed. Other Committee members present were Mary Lou Millard, vice chairperson; Tom Gerhardt, secretary-treasurer; Roger Burger; and Mary Reed. Al Taylor of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee also was present. Township Clerk Helen Mathieu sat in on the meeting for awhile as well.

February 19, 2015 Meeting Cancelled—Phillips stated that the **February 19, 2015, meeting was cancelled due to the weather causing the Onekama School to be closed**. If the School is closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will not be held.

Approval of the Minutes of January 15, 2015. Millard moved that the minutes of the January 15, 2015, meeting be approved. Reed seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Public Comment—Al Taylor reminded Committee members that the Township Board is conducting a **public hearing for the Onekama Township General Fund 2015-2016 Budget on Monday, March 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in the Township Hall to receive comment on the proposed Budget**. Any **changes for the Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities** should be brought up at this hearing.

A special meeting of the Board will follow the Budget hearing. A workshop session was held on the proposed Budget on February 16, 2015. The next Township fiscal year is April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016.

Taylor also discussed **Onekama Days, which is to be held August 7-9, 2015**. He wanted to know if Parks and Recreation is planning to have the Parks Appreciation Day, beach volleyball at the Onekama Village Park, pickleball, wiffleball, and/or any other events. There will be events at locations all around the Lake. It is hoped that the Portage Point Inn will be sponsoring some events for the public this year during that weekend.

Information on events has been requested to be sent to Roz Jaffe by May 23, 2015, to be included in the schedule that is being published and other publicity for the

weekend. The Onekama Lions and Portage Lake Association are sponsoring Onekama Days.

Taylor said that there already has been an **Onekama Days Committee meeting**. The meetings are held the third Saturday, 9 a.m., at the M-22 Grill in Onekama. Taylor said that there should be a **representative from the Parks and Recreation Committee**.

Gerhardt said that Leann Burger was appointed to last year's Committee on May 15, 2014, as the representative of Parks and Recreation. Phillips will ask her to continue in this capacity.

More outdoor-type activities are needed for Onekama Days. **Sharks in Our Parks** that the Parks and Recreation Committee did for several years was also discussed. Phillips said that Howard Hughes had talked to a woman in his neighborhood about working with Sharks in Our Parks before he passed away. Millard and Reed volunteered to help with this event. Gerhardt said that Evie McNeil did Langland Park for this event several years ago. Phillips said that he would talk with her to see if she would like to help out again.

Committee members remembered Ken Franklin, Leann Burger, and Cynthia Kadzban being involved with **pickleball** and **wiffleball**. Reed thought the courts at the Onekama School might be more centrally located for these events than those at Portage Point Inn.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the financial report for the North Point Park Fund. The balance on January 31, 2015, was \$19,884.76. On February 28, 2015, the balance also was \$19,884.76. He said that there was an accounting for all donations and expenditures for the Park from April 1, 2014, through January 26, 2015, that had been given to him.

Millard said that the Township General Fund 2014-2015 Budget is only printed out for distribution every three months, as Gerhardt had said previously. Clerk Helen Mathieu confirmed this but agreed to print out this monthly for the Committee. Millard would make copies for Committee members and also place one in Gerhardt's mailbox in the Township Hall.

Gerhardt then gave the Township General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities April 1, 2014-January 25, 2015: General Parks expenses, \$2,957.69; Glen Park, \$100.00; Langland Park, \$1,239.50; Feldhak Park, \$0.00; Harbor Commission, \$0.00; Village Park, \$5,000.00 (for Boat Launch Ramp); and Portage Wetlands Park, \$0.00, for a total of \$9,297.19. There was \$80,000 budgeted for Recreation/Parks Activities for 2014-2015. This amount included one-half of the grant match for Langland Park: \$43,500. Remaining of the 2014-2015 budget for Recreation/Parks Activities is \$27,202.81.

Roger Burger reported on the Village expenditures for parks; the total was \$128,675.30 since March 1, 2014. Approximately \$116,000 was for the Explore the Shores project in the Village Park, and approximately \$13,000 was for regular park expenditures.

Gerhardt continued with a report on the funds for the Pierhead Light project. The donations thus far totaled \$2,915.00, including the last donation (deposited on October 22, 2014) of \$165 that was given by Tim Marty, who received prize money from fellow golfers with summer homes on Portage Point in a golf game at County Highlands Golf Club at Bear Lake. Millard talked with Jan at Onekama Marine; Marty could be contacted about this donation at (419) 241-7486 (work) or (419) 344-1663 (cell), if more information is needed for The Pierhead Light booklet insert listing donors.

Spent from the Pierhead Light Fund has been \$1,106 for the bronze plaque, \$325 for the 250 booklets, and \$65 to schedule the placing of the service wire underground from the meter pedestal for the Light to the service pole and connecting it to the overhead line. A total of \$1,496 has been spent so far, leaving a balance of \$1,419. Phillips stated that the meter pedestals will be installed for the Pierhead Light project and the well project at North Point Park as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

Gerhardt said that he had talked with Phillips about **asking John Hattendorf to speak at the Pierhead Light dedication.** Hattendorf, who was born in 1941, was here in the summers in his younger years and sailed by the Light many times. He is the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and is director of the Naval War College Museum there.

On March 4, 2015, Gerhardt sent him one of the dedication booklets and Hattendorf replied by email on March 15: "Thank you for thinking of me as a speaker for the dedication of the Light. It would be a great honor and very great pleasure to do it, if I could just somehow figure out how to get there for the Fourth of July weekend. Normally, we are able to get to Portage Point for three weeks at 9241 Lakeside in the last two weeks of August and first week of September. This year, I have to be in Paris to speak at a major naval history conference in late June and then to be home in Newport, Rhode Island, on the eighth and ninth of July to speak at the events surrounding the visit of the replica of the 18th century French frigate that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to the United States during the American Revolution.

"...I would need to figure out how I could practically fly to Traverse City from Rhode Island for the weekend, rent a car, and come down to Portage as well as find a place to stay on that very busy weekend. I would really love to do this, but I am not sure that I can pull it off. I will need to think a bit more about how to do this if I can.

"Thank you so much for thinking of me."

Gerhardt said that he told Hattendorf that if things worked out, he (Hattendorf) would be the speaker. Gerhardt told the Committee that otherwise he (Gerhardt) was not really going to pursue a speaker of note, because it would best to have a shorter presentation, since the ceremonies are to end with the light being turned on at 10 p.m. on Sunday, July 5.

The secretary-treasurer then said that he wanted entered in the minutes the **dates of service of the late Howard and Pat Hughes.** Howard joined the Committee on August 7, 2003, and then said his wife, Pat, was interested also in being on the Committee. She

became a member at the next meeting, which was September 4. She passed away on June 30, 2012. Howard became co-chairperson with Jon Phillips on November 17, 2011; Howard passed away on January 20, 2015.

Possibly naming a trail for Howard Hughes or dedicating a park bench to him was discussed.

Glen Park Trail Bypass—Mathieu said that she had talked with a member of the Vandertuig family who is owner of the property on which a portion of the Glen Park trail crosses beyond the north boundary line of Glen Park. The family member said this trail crossed onto the family's property when Boy Scouts were camping in the Park at one time, but she does not want it there now.

The north boundary of the Park has been surveyed; it has been discussed at previous meetings **the building of a bridge and stairs to bypass this encroachment, which now will have to be done.**

Phillips had a **drawing of the new sign to be hung on the existing posts at M-22 and Fourth Avenue for Glen Park.** The sign, which was designed and will be made by Amor Sign Studios in Manistee, has the sailboat brand that now is appearing in some of the other signs for parks. The cost will be \$361.27. Millard made color copies of the sign drawing for the group. It is 38.0 inches by 25.5 inches. Millard moved and Reed seconded that the sign be ordered and paid for out of Township park funds. The motion carried.

Tree Subcommittee—Mary Reed gave **the report for the Tree Subcommittee** of which she is secretary (see attached minutes for the Subcommittee's meetings of June 5, 2014; November 13, 2014; and February 27, 2015). The **Arbor Day Celebration has been changed to May 9, 2015, 10 a.m.,** so that Forester Josh Shields of the Manistee Conservation District can attend and give a demonstration on tree planting. Also, an informative program will cover diseases of trees and invasives in forests.

Reed needed authorization **to order copies from Jackpine of the M-DNR Forest Health Highlights 2014.** These would be available at the Celebration or could be used as samples of what people could find on the internet. For fifty copies, the price would be \$8.60 each. For ten copies, they would be \$9.00 each. Millard made the motion to order thirty copies. Reed seconded the motion; the motion carried.

For the Arbor Day Celebration, Reed said that the **Subcommittee is going to replace arboretum trees that have died with larger potted trees (six to twelve depending on price),** which participants will help plant. There also will be a bag of top soil used in each hole that is dug. Taylor said that the celebration should be publicized on the Onekama website.

Mathieu also reported that she **had talked with Bob Baker about planting a shrub on each side of the marker in Feldhak Park.** He agreed that it would enhance the marker and gave his permission for it to be done.

Explore the Shores Subcommittee—Phillips reported that the Township is spearheading the Langland Park project that is being undertaken with a **Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant.** The total project cost is **\$348,000.** The grant will provide **\$261,000;** the match is **\$87,000.**

David Meister, Onekama Township Supervisor, has appointed the Langland Park Project Management Team: Taylor, of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee, who is the project manager; James “Nipper” Wisniski, representing the Township Board; Phil Joseph, chairperson of the Subcommittee; and Phillips, who also is a member of Explore the Shores in addition to being chairperson of Parks and Recreation. A representative of the engineering-design firm that is to be chosen for the project also will be on the Management Team.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported that the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources approved a total of twenty projects that will receive more than \$4 million dollars to fight invasive species around the State. The Portage Lake Watershed Forever will be participating in the grant that was awarded for additional testing of Eurasian watermilfoil and hybrid watermilfoil.**

Portage Lake will be one of the twelve lakes that will be a part of this study. There will be additional surveying done on the Lake this summer by the lake management company that participated in drafting this grant application. The study is to identify different hybrids of Eurasian watermilfoil and the agents that are most effective in treating these specific hybrids.

The \$330,000 grant was awarded to Michigan Tech University, and Professional Lake Management will be working with them on this project. This is very positive for Portage Lake, as treatment agents will be tested for effectiveness against specific hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil strains. The M-DNR website has a list of the twenty programs that were funded.

The Portage Lake Watershed Forever is looking into hiring a staff member, such as an administrative assistant, to work with the organization.

County Park and Recreation Plan—Phillips and Reed **reported on the progress with the creation of a Five-Year County Park and Recreation Plan, which is a cooperative process of the Manistee County Planning Department and the Alliance for Economic Success.** The creation of a Countywide plan would mean much towards ensuring the success of applications for Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants.

Reed had a copy of the February 26, 2015, Manistee News Advocate that had a front-page story about students identifying wishes for parks and recreation in Manistee County as part of the five-year plan project.

Facilities for Kayak Launching—Phillips said that three places had been mentioned for **providing a launch to facilitate placing kayaks in the water. These are an unidentified site on the south shore of Portage Lake, the Village Park, and the M-DNR Launch Site.**

Burger and other Committee members said that the Village Park is too crowded, the winds often create currents in the wrong direction to facilitate launching, and it is not as close to the Channel for passage to Lake Michigan. It was decided that the M-DNR Launch Site was more ideal. Mathieu said that Ardmore near the Launch Site sometimes was used to launch boats, but parking could only be along the shoulders of the road.

In looking at the plat map, she pointed out the Launch Site has a lot of shoreline lots that have not even been utilized yet. There could be more parking there with the utilization of these lots, which might be an answer to one person's objection that the activity would interfere with the launching and parking for fishermen. The Launch Site also has a rest room. A dock structure to which the kayak launch is attached could be included at the M-DNR Launch Site.

Taylor had a **Resolution for the Development of Universally Accessible Kayak and Canoe Launch Facilities on Portage Lake** written for the Township Board to adopt. After some discussion resulting in additions to the wording, the Committee recommended its adoption by the Township with the changes as indicated on the attached document in a motion by Reed, which was seconded by Millard. The motion carried.

Onekama Consolidated Schools—Roger Burger reported that the **Community Classes** were in session at the Onekama School. Taylor suggested that there be a **park clean-up day, for which student groups participating would be given honorariums (cash) for their treasuries.** He is to contact Nikki Torrey, who sponsors Student Council and the National Honor Society at the Onekama School.

Update on the Onekama Village Park—Roger Burger stated that **refreshing the beach** still remains to be done in the shoreline project at the Onekama Village Park. **The permits from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the M-DEQ still must be obtained; therefore, because of this, an application for the extension of the project completion deadline is being submitted.**

Portage Lake Association—Taylor reported that **the Portage Lake Association is making plans for the banners, petunias, Concerts in the Park (with over \$6,000 in entertainment), and a welcome wagon.** Burger said that the Village Council passed a resolution the evening before so that the Michigan Department of Transportation will issue the permit for the petunia project to proceed along Main Street (Highway M-22).

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for March 19, 2015, adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer

ONEKAMA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2014

Onekama Township Hall

PRESENT: Jon Phillips, Don Oswell, Howard Hughes, Paul Mueller, Mary Reed (Herb Lenon absent)

1. NPP fund is available at the Township. It is well funded and a well can be done
2. Lost about 1/3 of trees planted in 2013. Buy larger trees in the future.
3. Sprinkler system @ NPP - contact David Meister for suggestions
4. 9,000 for the well - from the Township budget
5. Different methods of irrigation were discussed
6. Do we need to have the irrigation system before we do the well? Check on different systems and get cost estimates. Get estimates for 1/2 mile of irrigation. Different types of systems are 1. Drip system, On top of ground or underground. 2. How expandable is the system and is adaptable for future needs?
7. Are we serious about the Arboretum? It could create a destination point. Get the school involved and bring them along.
8. Well will be on the left side as you drive into the park.

Glen Park

1. Trees near the road should be cut down
2. Do not allow people to cut out the dead trees. People are cutting the dead trees close to the road. Kids are cutting for their fires. Need a sign "No cutting or trimming of trees or vegetation"
3. Talk to tree trimmers:

Camfield Climbers 231-269-4387

Rusty VanBrochen - 231-398-0698
4. Talk to the tree experts (Sedler, Eric Siefert)
5. Get 2 bids for Glen Park, NPP, Village

Mary Reed, Secretary

ONEKAMA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2014 9:00 -11AM

Paul Muller's Home - Canfield House

PRESENT: Herb Lenon, Jon Phillips, Howard Hughes, Mary Reed

Discussion:

Irrigation: Well will be dug in the spring. Delays have been due to the difficulty getting an address so Consumers could do the work needed for the well. Work will be done at NPP and the DNR launch. After this is done the well digger will dig the well. Will need to complete this in the spring. Well driller price is confirmed at \$4,200.

Trees to replant for the arboretum:

Buy 6' trees and bags of peat moss. Buy one each of each species. Plant a few big trees each year. May have difficulty getting the trees we want in the early spring. Trees will depend on price and availability. hardwoods 5-6' and conifers 2-3 feet (white pine and red pine do well in our soil at North Point Park) Consider planting in the fall. Herb and Don will investigate the trees to buy.

2015 Arbor Day Celebration:

1. May 16th, 2015 at North Point Park
2. Do we want to do a giveaway of small trees?
3. Buy potted trees 4-6'.
4. Put peat in the ground around the roots.

Submitted by: Mary Reed, Jon Phillips

ONEKAMA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 27TH, 2015 9:30 -11AM

Onekama Township Hall

PRESENT: Herb Lenon, Jon Phillips, Don Oswell, Mary Reed

Reports: Minutes from the **November 13, 2014** meeting were available. The meeting was held at the home of Paul Mueller and the minutes have not been typed. Meeting discussion included what trees to replant for the arboretum. Herb and Don will investigate possible trees. May 16th was decided as the date for our Arbor Day Celebration.

2015 Arbor Day Celebration:

1. It will be held on May 16th at North Point Park in the same location as last year.
2. Speaker do a 20 min presentation on Tree Diseases then group will plant 6-12 large trees. Possible Speakers to contact: Josh Shields, Chris Riley, Katie Grzesiack.
3. Handouts and demonstration on the proper way to plant a tree in this type of soil prior to the groups going off to plant a trees.
4. We will replace arboretum trees that have died with larger potted trees. 6-12 trees depending on price. Will check what's needed as soon as possible this spring. Also purchase bag of top soil for each hole.
5. Tree cost estimate of \$ 40-50/tree for 4-6 ft hardwoods and 3' conifers. Will ask the Township for a budget of \$1000 for the Arbor Day Celebration expenses.
6. Don and Herb will check on availability and costs of trees as soon as the nurseries open this spring. Don will check with Zimmerman's 4 Seasons Nursery and Herb will do Crystal Gardens.
7. School involved - Flyer for kids to take home. Braden help with promoting the event to the school. Do a program on the importance of trees to the environment.
8. Next meeting: Jon will contact Paul and will schedule the next meeting after Paul and Herb return. Probably after the 4th of April.

Mary Reed, Secretary

Onekama Parks & Rec Tree Committee

**HERB LENON'S LIST OF
TREES TO CONSIDER
PLANTING AS AN
ARBORITUM AT NORTH
POINT PARK**

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
NATIVE TREES**

Silver Maple

American Mt Ash

American Basswood

Burr Oak

American Chestnut (hybrid-
Benzie Co)

Black Walnut

Butternut

American Hazelnut

Am? Sycamore (London
Planetree)

Sassafras

(Redbud)

(Chokeberry)

(Elderberry)

(American Hornbeam)

Block Oak

BUSHES

Forsythia

(Spirea)

(Gray Dogwood)

Crabapple

Silky Dogwood

Lilac

Smooth Sumac

Burning Bush

**SOUTHERN MICHIGAN
NATIVE TREES (that will
grow in our area)**

Flowering dogwood

Kentucky Coffeetree

American Horse Chestnut

Swamp White Oak

Osage Organge

Pin Oak

No. Hackberry

Tulip Tree (Gel.Poplar)

Black Tupelo (Black Cum)

Sweetgum

(No. Catalpa)

Ginkgo

Pigment Hickory

Shagbark Hickory

Butternut Hickory

Washington Hawthorn
(Thornapple)

Red Mulberry

EXOTIC 9 (desirable)

Dawn Redwood

Bald Cyprus

White Fir

Ponderosa Pin

Douglas Fir

Norway Spruce

Rose of Sharon

Bradford Pear

Bristlecone Pine

RESOLUTION
DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE KAYAK & CANOE LAUNCH FACILITIES
ON PORTAGE LAKE

WHEREAS, the protection, wise use and management of Portage Lake and its watershed are of paramount importance to the economic well-being and quality of life of Onekama Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan and Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan provide outstanding guidance and direction for the future of Onekama Township, including development of our recreational assets for people of all ages, needs and abilities; and

WHEREAS, an important strategy of Onekama Township is make optimal use of our special land and water resources, including the development of outstanding access opportunities such as that to be developed at Langland Park on Lake Michigan under the recently awarded grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; and

universally accessible
WHEREAS, the Township has ~~no~~ facilities dedicated to supporting the use of Portage Lake for kayaking and canoeing by people of all ages, needs and abilities and is mindful of the fact that about 19.7% of our general population is disabled and 37.5% of the population age 65 and older is disabled; and

WHEREAS, the development of such facilities would support use by permanent and seasonal residents as well as visitors and complement our participation in the Blue Water Trails and other programs;

or other appropriate organizations
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Onekama Township requests the assistance of the Alliance for Economic Success in collaborating with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine options and means for developing universally accessible kayak and canoe launch facilities at the existing DNR launch site on the west side of Andy's Point; and
or other appropriate properties

FURTHER, that the Township would willingly enter into an agreement with the DNR to assist with maintenance and operations of such facilities and related amenities, including the process to annually install and remove the launch facility from the Lake; and

or other appropriate organizations
FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Alliance for Economic Success and to appropriate personnel in the DNR, the Planning Director for Manistee County, the Disabilities Network of Northern Michigan as well as to State Representative Ray Franz and State Senator Darwin Booher.