

**BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD MINUTES
MAY 28, 2014**

Members Present: Marty Sfiligoj, Chairman; Henri Preuss, Vice Chairman; Sue Curran; Mitch Fakadej; Jim Keszenheimer; Lorrie Benza, Township Trustee and Jim Stanek, Service Director

Guests: Mr. Ken Emerick
Mrs. Pamela Emerick
Mr. Ted Seliga

Mr. Sfiligoj, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Dining Hall at Centerville Mills Park.

The Park Board welcomed its newest member Mr. Jim Keszenheimer and introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Pamela Emerick, resident, stated that she and her husband are in attendance because they want to see Centerville Mills Park kept open and added that the township needs to have more community events.

OLD BUSINESS

Centerville Mills Park

The members of the Park Board along with Mrs. Lorrie Benza and Mr. Jim Stanek held a discussion regarding the structures at Centerville Mills Park and it was noted that the Board of Trustees would like the Park Board to come to a decision this month. Topics of discussion were marketing the park, competition with subdivisions having their own recreational areas, usage, expenses, budget, Geauga County Parks, restoration work that has already done on some of the structures, vision for the park, demolitions that have been done and the time the staff spends at this park. The board discussed the former swimming pool and noted that the liability costs outweighed keeping the pool and the resident use was minimal.

Mrs. Benza explained the acquisition of the Frohring Funds.

The board discussed the Centerville Mills Park Feasibility study that was conducted in 1997, the Heery Report regarding the Dining Hall, the elimination of the structures and constructing open-air pavilions in place of the Lakeside Center and at the Nature Center site.

Mrs. Benza talked about the incident at the Lakeside Center over the weekend and that the groups have been relocated to other buildings in the township until the problem has been resolved.

Also discussed was the current and future use of the buildings and if the township did not have those buildings, would they be built to accommodate the residents. The buildings include: White House, Workshop, Storage Building, Cabin, Restrooms (Blue Room); Lodge, Lakeside Center, Daycare Center, Dining Hall, Office and Pole Barn.

Mr. Stanek stated that the storage barn is a valuable building and is used for seasonal storage for summer and winter equipment to keep it out of the weather and added that the infrastructure for the Dining Hall will go up if the other buildings are removed.

Mr. Seliga stated that there are alternate resources that the residents can take advantage of and the township can promote the other facilities. He submitted a financial report to the board and stated that the township does not have the funds and it has multiple parks such as River Road, Settlers and Heritage that serve all kinds of needs and the usage at Centerville Mills Park is minimal with the county parks providing camping. He reminded the Park Board to keep the financial aspect in mind when making a recommendation.

The board discussed asking the Service Department to provide a step-down demolition plan and to start with the least used buildings. Mr. Sfiligoj said he would like to see the road and all structures, except the Dining Hall at this time, removed and to make it an all passive park with the campsites to remain and to make it an all-quiet zone.

Motion – Centerville Mills Park

Mr. Sfiligoj made a motion that after years of reviewing usage of the buildings at Centerville Mills Park versus the expense for their up-keep, the Park Board recommends the Service Director present a proposal to the Trustees for a potential step-down demo plan for underused buildings. Part of that plan should also include removal of the through-road and barns returning the camp and meadow area into a quiet natural zone and consolidating road department operations to Haskins Road.

In keeping with the Centerville Mills Committee recommendation for a passive park with a small footprint of facilities, the Board requests the Dining hall be evaluated further and also consider transitioning sites, like the Lakeside Building into picnic areas.

Mr. Preuss seconded the motion.

Vote: Ms. Curran, aye; Mr. Fakadej, aye; Mr. Keszenheimer, aye; Mr. Preuss, aye; Mr. Sfiligoj, aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Independence Day Celebration

Mrs. Benza announced that the fireworks this year will be held on July 6th at Kenston High School since the township lost its ability to use River Road Park due to residential development in the area and added that Auburn Township is going to help fund it.

MINUTES

Mr. Sfiligoj made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated April 16, 2014 as written.

Mr. Preuss seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Playgrounds

Mrs. Benza mentioned that Mr. Mitchell has indicated that the playground equipment at Settlers Park is failing. She asked if the Park Board would like to recommend to the Board of Trustees that they retain the gentleman from Playground Safety Solutions who can perform an audit and an inspection if the board feels it is worthwhile. He can perform an audit of the River Road Park playground for \$750.00 and a regular inspection for \$300.00 and for Settlers he can perform an audit for \$550.00 and a regular inspection for \$225.00.

The board held a discussion regarding the playgrounds. Mr. Preuss said the Settlers Park playground was installed by the Civic Club and the Park Board and it is wood and reiterated that two playgrounds are needed in one (one for the smaller tots and one for the bigger tots) just like at River Road Park.

Mr. Stanek stated that this gentleman does not have any ties to sales and added that the Park Board looked at the playground at Settlers Park and discussed the things that needed to be addressed but they have not yet been addressed.

Playground Inspections

The board was in general agreement to have the inspections done on the playgrounds so the Park Board will have something viable to make a decision on.

Since there was no further business, Mr. Sfiligoj made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Preuss seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Zimmerman
Secretary to Park Board

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 18, 2014 – 7:00 P.M. – Settlers Park