

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
VIRTUAL PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 1, 2020**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

Present: William Scott, Denise Schmuckal, Chris DeGood, Chris Remy, Fern Spence and Art Bukowski

Absent and Excused: James Guilmet

Staff Present: Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon and Parks Steward Derek Morton

1. **Call to Order:** Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
2. **Public Comment:**  
None
3. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest**  
*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the agenda as presented.*  
  
*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Scott, DeGood*  
*Nays: None*
4. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2020**  
*Bukowski moved and Scott seconded to approve the minutes of May 4, 2020.*  
  
*Yeas: Bukowski, Scott, Schmuckal, Remy, Spence, DeGood*  
*Nays: None*
5. **Correspondence**  
None
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Commissioner Reports**  
Bukowski thanked Derek Morton and Tom Vitale for helping with the rogue trail issue in the Commons. Other commissioners agreed and all had a spirited discussion on stopping the building of unauthorized trails.
  - b. **Staff Report/Updates**  
Deputy Planner Hannon said that the DNR requirements have been met for the Boardman Valley Trust Fund grant. Parks Steward Derek Morton said that the Silver Lake Park paving project is almost complete. Dog parks will be closed later this week for tree trimming and the Franke Mill demolition is still on hold for now pending an inspection next week. He added that the revised Parkland Ordinance was adopted by the board.

c. **Grand Traverse Conservation District Report**

Tom Vitale reiterated what was happening to trails at the Commons. He has the support and watchful eyes of many individuals and groups in the area. He touched on the rain event, which caused quite a bit of erosion in parklands and staff is trying to repair it as best as they can. Oleson Pond has been stocked with fish and the mapping project is continuing.

6. **Old Business**

a. **PD 2020-82 – Hunting Permit Application – Proposed Revision - Update (6:31)**

At the last meeting, Park Commissioners asked for clarification on each of the hunting area maps for each park in order to reflect the DNR regulations. Staff clarified details on the maps and included that is solely the responsibility of the hunter to comply with all township and DNR regulations. Commissioners recommended that only one person in the township be given the responsibility of approving the hunting permits to provide for better tracking. Commissioners also discussed the proposed Wildlife Survey and thought that it could be stricken from the application.

*Bukowski moved and Schmuckal seconded to recommend to the Township Board that the revised Township Hunting Permit Application be adopted with the Wildlife Survey Portion stricken.*

*Yeas: Bukowski, Schmuckal, Spence, Scott, Remy, DeGood  
Nays: None*

*Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded to revise Garfield Township Ordinance No. 50 to eliminate item J4 from the Ordinance.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Spence, Remy, Scott, Bukowski, DeGood  
Nays: None*

7. **New Business**

a. **PD 2020-83 – 2021 Parks Capital Improvements Program – Introduction/Discussion (6:44)**

Hannon introduced the 2021 Capital Improvements Plan for the parks. He said that it was a good tool for implementing projects in order to anticipate upcoming costs and projects. Commissioners liked the proposed CIP and asked about other projects such as fencing at Serenity Park, grass seeding and pylons in the area where trees were cut near the airport. A plan for upgrading the heating in the bathroom building at Silver Lake was discussed and commissioners said that project may need to be completed this year to save money over the winter months.

**b. Commercial Paddling Permitting – Boardman Valley Nature Preserve – Discussion (7:08)**

This is continued discussion of a proposed permit for River Outfitters to enter into an agreement with Grand Traverse County and Garfield Township for the use of the Boardman River access in the Boardman Valley Nature preserve for kayakers to exit the river. Commissioners talked about making infrastructure improvements to the existing driveway on the Verizon property and shared concerns with a commercial use on a public property. Township resident Alisa Korn gave commissioners some background in the proposal and explained that the water levels are too high for kayakers to continue past S. Airport Road to the original landing at Medalie Park. Township Supervisor Chuck Korn also commented on the matter. Commissioner discussion focused on policies for such a use, and whether the township should fund businesses asking for improvements on a property as well as using township owned parkland for such a use. There was some interest in a temporary improvement to the land as long as it is not funded by the township. Concerns were also raised as to who would be responsible for any engineering fees incurred to make the site amenable to the proposed use.

**8. Public Comment**

Parks Steward Morton commented that he would like guidance on dealing with the rental of playing fields. He has been taking many calls from several groups wishing to rent the fields. Commissioners said they would take up the matter at the August meeting and provide more definite guidelines for field rental.

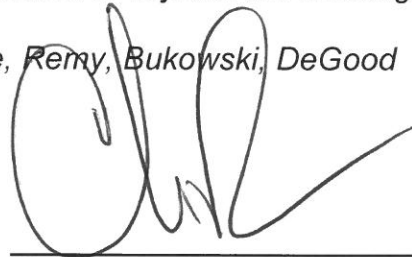
**9. Item for Next Agenda – August 3, 2020**

- a. River East Recreation Area – Public Engagement**
- b. Parks Capital Improvements Program**

**10. Adjournment**

*Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Scott, Spence, Remy, Bukowski, DeGood*  
*Nays: None*



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Chris Remy, Secretary  
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation  
Commission  
3848 Veterans Drive  
Traverse4 City, MI 49684