

**Ontwa Township Planning Commission
Cass County Michigan**

Wednesday, January 6, 2021
7:00 PM

VIA ZOOM
843-9372-1887

Members on Zoom: Chris Marbach – Chairman, Sandra Seanor-Secretary, Mike Mroczek, Don Delong, Richard Gates, Robert Thompson, Dawn Bolock and Shane Szalai.

Members Absent: William Mahaney

Minutes Recorded By: Brigid Forlenza

Chair Marbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Agenda Approval:** Chair Marbach requested public comments move to #3. Motion made by Sandra Seanor seconded by Mike Mroczek to approve agenda as amended. All in favor, motion passes.
3. **Reading and approval of past minutes:** December 2, 2020; Mike Mroczek request change in minutes under #8 Public comments as follows:
 - a. 2. Change “north” to south – South of the weir has deed to water.
 - a. 3. Change “south” to north – North of the weir is Cass County Road Commission.Dawn Bolock made a motion to approve minutes as corrected seconded by Sandra Seanor. All in favor, motion carries.
4. **Land Divisions: None**
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Election of Officers:** Dawn Bolock made a motion to elect Chris Marbach – Chairman, Robert Thompson – Vice Chairman, and Sandra Seanor – Secretary seconded by Mike Mroczek. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Comments: Dale Snow commented that he appreciates changes to the Parks and Recreation Plan. Dale Snow related the entire frontage of Eagle Lake north and south of the weir should be included.

Chair Marbach spoke relating the plan is considered a master plan and a general plan of ideas. It is not legally binding. It prepares for the future.
Sandra Seanor spoke relating as a longtime grant writer you do not want to be specific and political. The plan defines the entire scope of the situation and a broad concept of the recreation plan. Identifies generalized area.

Chair Marbach we will ask Andy Moore to respond when we get to this on agenda.
Dale Snow wants boat ramp language to be eliminated and wants the picture on page 18 to be centered as words and pictures matter. Feels the word boat ramp should be eliminated as it risks promoting a false expectation to the public and potentially creating a legal conflict.
Lastly page 32 goal #4 -verbiage about townships stewardship responsibility to actively manage our natural resources. Question he asked: Has a carrying capacity study been done for all the lakes? He strongly recommends that before we overly promote access that in fairness to the township's commitment that a study of that nature be conducted.

Sandra Seanor – This doesn't have to do with this Park and Recreation Plan. The fact of the matter is when you look at DEQ regulations carry and capacity does not have a lot to do with how they determine if you can do certain things. This issue has nothing to do with the recreation plan. However, she does agree with your interest, but it does not have to do with the efficacy of the plan. This plan allows the Township to ask for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

- b. **Review of Annual Report:** Motion made by Sandra Seanor to approve annual report seconded by Dawn Bolock.

Mike Mroczek point of discussion – The IMPC was approved in March and was sent to the Board of Trustees for approval. The IMPC is not on website. The IMPC ordinance change should be in this document.

Chair Marbach will amend report to include this and forward to Board of Trustees.

Sandra Seanor made the motion to approve report with that sentence seconded by Dawn Bolock. All in favor, motion carries.

6. **Old Business:**

- a. **2021 – 2025 Park and Recreation Plan approval:** Whitney Newberry and Andrew Moore of Williams and Works have made changes as requested by Planning Commission. A resolution has been supplied to the Board and the deadline is at the end of this month.

Chris Marbach asked Andrew Moore to address comments made by Mr. Snow.

Andrew Moore: As to North or South of the weir the plan says what it says. East end public access is east end of Eagle Lake. He would include most of that land. Tried to keep the language on page 15 as neutral as possible. The map is drawn to be as accurate as possible recognizing the area on Eagle Lake is most usable. Last, as to the question regarding if the Township should do a carry and capacity study, he thinks it could be done in the future. The plans general and overarching policy is to be a good steward of the land and to promote responsible use of the township's water resources. Moving forward a carry and capacity study could be beneficial depending on the circumstances.

Public meeting is schedule for January 11, 2021 and has been noticed in the paper for Board of Trustees.

Sandra Seanor has two comments:

1. The Sports Complex connector path is concrete not paved.
2. Did grant numbers provided make it into the report? The majority was funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funding – Of which \$40,000 happened to be from the Natural Resource Trust Fund. She wants to make sure the numbers are correct.

Andrew Moore has the correct numbers for the report.

Motion to Adopt the resolution.

Sandra Seanor moves to adopt 2021-2025 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan to the Township Board seconded by Dawn Bolock. Ontwa Township Resolution #2021-01-06-1

Yeas, - Chris Marbach, Shane Szalai, Sandra Seanor, Richard Gates, Robert Thompson, Don DeLong, Mike Mroczek, Dawn Bolock.

Nays, - -0-

1 absent member – William Mahaney

All in favor, motion carries.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Scheduled to meet via zoom January 12, 2021. Sandra Seanor related there will be six or seven items for discussion. One item brought up has been VRBO's and she has engaged Andrew Moore for additional information. Short term rentals, accessory dwelling units looking at regulatory responsibilities. Clerk Tina VanBelle wants zoning changes amendment process.

8. Announcements: None

9. Adjournment: Hearing no further comments Chair Marbach adjourned meeting at 7:40PM. All in favor – motion passes.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brigid Forlenza
Recording Secretary