

Starke County Park Board Minutes – 081815

Board Attendance: Roger Chaffins, Skyler Ellinger, Debbie Mix, Rosemary Rose.

Call to Order at 6:05pm at the County Annex Building

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Skyler reported that Marcia Bedrock tendered her resignation from the board. All current board members are present.

Roger motioned that the minutes from the June and July meetings be accepted as written. Rose seconded the motion. Vote and Motion carried.

Starke County Forest – The Marsh at the Forest was discussed. Neighbors complained and brought the issue of flooding to the Drainage Board. The Drainage board ruled that the beavers had to be removed. Mr. Wakeland, Forest manager, noted that once the beavers are removed, the marsh will be destroyed, overtaken by the ditch. President Ellinger noted that both the Drainage Board and the Park Board would like a long-term solution. Mr. Wakeland stated if the culvert is closed during the night, it is a temporary solution. He spoke with Bob Aloï of Territorial Engineering and state a possible long-term solution is to make a bypass ditch to bypass the marsh. Mr. Aloï has said that John Richardson looked at the permits necessary. If the County leaves it as is, they would have to haul out the spoils.

It was noted that there's a culvert at 1100 N, and a 2nd culvert on private property. That culvert is completely submerged under water. There's a 2.63' drop and that would mean the obstruction is between 1100 and the Marsh. Mr. Wakeland believes the beavers can't be blocking it. He's asking to find a long-term solution. Perhaps a legal stay would allow time to find a long term solution. Financing the fix is an issue. Mr. Wakeland noted he will wait and asked the board to give their opinion to the Commissioners.

Note: Any funds to remove the beavers will come from the Forest funds.

Rose made a motion to write a letter to put this issue on hold so we can meet with the Drainage Board and work on a long-term solution. Skyler seconded and a vote was taken. Three yeas, and one (Roger) opposed. The motion carried.

Bass Lake Beach and Campground:

Skyler noted the county building inspector has not had the opportunity to do a formal inspection at the beach and Campground.

Update:

The Park Board has agreed that all items have been addressed that has been given written notice. It was stressed that we need to keep all parties informed and notified in advance. Mr. Callahan noted that 70 picnic tables have now been repaired and ready to paint. He has resurfaced the site with stone. In addition, he has contacted the State and was told 5% of the weeds must remain, and he would like to see the weeds removed. He's sent a letter to the DNR. The beach closes after Labor Day.

A suggestion was made to get definitions regarding what are capital improvements and what is maintenance.

Debbie made a motion to hold on payment of the bills presented at the last meeting until we get itemization of the items purchased and where they were used. Skyler 2nd and a vote was taken. All agreed except Roger, who opposed. The motion carried.

The insurance policy is on file with the Auditors' office. We will receive a copy of it before next meeting.

Mr. Callahan asked if the inspector went through the entire and park and stated he was under the impression that if there were violations, he should have been notified, and he hasn't

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been. He pointed out that he should be invited to attend the inspection. Debbie suggested that if the board members attend an inspection with the inspector, there should be 2 board members – one from each political party – for the sake of equal representation. Or, the inspector can inspect on his own.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm. The next meeting is on Sept 15, 2015, 6pm at the Annex building.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Mix, secretary.