

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE*
ST JAMES TOWNSHIP, BEAVER ISLAND, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN
MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 18, 2021 @ 11:00AM @ ST JAMES TWP HALL

Attending: Members Moore, McNamara and Cole. Public: Bobbie Welke, Dan VandenHeede. Minutes of the July 24, 2021 meeting were approved.

Solar Energy Committee heard from long-time summer visitor Dan VandenHeede, a municipal solar development consultant. He spoke about a few options that would be available to the island if the community was interested in implementing a solar energy project. He was provided with information about a recent PHD Paper: Beaver Island and a Renewable Energy Future; the paper (executive summary attached) was prepared by MSU student Sara Millies-Luckeh on behalf of the Beaver Island Sustainability Fair (BISF). The paper lays out a Clean Energy Plan for the Island.

Road safety This item was directed to the committee by the board. The idea was initiate a road safety/efficiency study for the township, primarily the harbor village area. McNamara reached out to Bobbi Welke (island resident & former MDOT employee) for input and Bobbi found some MDOT programs that would be valuable: (https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9615_11261_45212---,00.html) McNamara reached out to the program director and to the County Road Commission to discuss which program(s) would be best suited for the township. Consensus of the Committee is to begin with a Local Safety Initiative which may lead to a Road Safety Audit and finally a Road Safety Plan. McNamara to follow up with MDOT to initiate process and also to see if we can get someone to take some drone footage of the traffic around the harbor yet this summer.

Harborview Park Update McNamara presented the Quote Tabulation for the Harborview Park Restroom Upgrade including a water conditioner, water heater, sinks, slob sink and new drinking fountain. There was just one quote received and the recommendation (confirmed by committee JM motion, PC 2nd, all in favor) is to accept the bid of \$11,925.00 from Robert's John Service. Funding from the County Parks Millage and the general fund will be used on this project. Work is scheduled to begin after Labor Day 2021 and to be completed no later than October 31, 2021 or facility winter shutdown whichever comes first.

Campground Improvement Project McNamara reported that work is finally getting underway at the campground and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2021. McDonough Construction is the contractor on the project.

Township Storage Space Consensus of the committee is that they like the idea of using the space in the newly acquired pole barn at the north marina for storage – possibly for storage for non-profit organizations on the island as well as for township storage. More discussion is needed to consider all aspects of potential use and access to the building.

BIHS and Possible Fishing Pier The Beaver Island Historical Society is working on a plan to reinforce, by use of a seawall, the harbor land on which the Marine Museum sits. The plan, with some modest improvements could include a location for a shoreline, or small dock, fishing area. Consensus of the committee is to work with BIHS to see if it is feasible and/or desirable for the township to partner with BIHS in this endeavor. Access to a shoreline fishing location on the harbor has long been identified as a community need.

Future Topics

Township Lighting – Dark Sky Compliant

Gull Harbor Preserve

Fall/Winter Maintenance

Next Meeting Date is September 15, 2021

*Public Works Committee established by Township Board on 12.7.2016. Current Members:
Supervisor McNamara, Trustee Cole and Trustee Moore.