

Oakland Township Sentinel

Newsletter – Sunday, April 11, 2021

For the Residents of the Charter Township of Oakland, Michigan

A community service of Robert A. Yager and Associates LLC, dba Oakland Township Sentinel

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- **Sunday April 18 – “The Buzz About Bees” – Ages 6-10, 10-11:30 AM**

Planning Commission

- **April 6th meeting postponed**

Police / Sheriff Department

- **Sheriff Dept. Works to Prevent Baldwin Elementary “Car Line” from Blocking Collins Rd. at Bannister**
- **Lieutenant Bernard retiring April 30th**

Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC)

- **April 7th SPTC Meeting Postponed**

Public Body Meetings Next Week

Tuesday April 13, 5:30 PM – Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Charter Township of Oakland

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670

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www.oaklandtownship.org



BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

5:30 PM - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION

- I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call**
- II. Announcements and Proclamations**
- III. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**
- IV. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- V. CLOSED SESSION:**
 - 1. Discuss a confidential legal opinion with regard to a pending road maintenance agreement.
 - 2. Discuss a confidential legal opinion regarding sale of township property.
 - 3. Discuss a confidential legal opinion regarding interpretations of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.
 - 4. Discuss a confidential legal opinion regarding Declaration of a State of Emergency in Oakland Township.
- VI. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- VII. Adjournment**

Tuesday April 13, 7 PM – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting (In-person at Township Hall)

The numbers to the right of agenda items are page numbers in the meeting packet where some detailed background information is provided to the Board and public. See this packet at this link or access it by starting with “Agendas/Packets” at top menu on Township website homepage.

Link to Board 4/13/2021 meeting packet.

<https://www.ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/596680403.pdf>

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

7:00 PM - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I.	Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call	
II.	Announcements and Proclamations	
III.	Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda	
IV.	Public Comment for items not on the Agenda	
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X.	Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees	
XI.	Adjournment	

This 2 page memo below from Adam Kline, Township Manager provides a summary to the Board describing the non-routine agenda items. I have my personal summary comments below his two page memo.

Memo

To: Board of Trustees
From: Adam Kline, Township Manager
Date: April 9, 2021
Re: Township Manager's Report



The following items are scheduled for the April 13 meeting agenda:

WRC Well Repair: The variable frequency drive (VFD) at Crossings Well 2 failed. This well is essential for the water supply in the Oakland Township southwest water system. The VFD was replaced to prevent disruption to the approximately 4,800 customers in this water system. WRC completed this replacement work with their staff and contractors. They estimate the cost of this work at approximately \$43,000 and will be funded through the capital reserve Oakland County holds on behalf of the Township. The work was an emergency replacement and backup is available in the packet. Board approval is appropriate.

Liquor License Public Hearing: This is a published public hearing for the request at 4505 Collins. Background material is available in the packet. The request has been reviewed by public safety, building, and the township attorney. Resolution and approval can be slated for the next board meeting.

Special Land Use - 1215 Stoney Creek Road: This item was recommended by the Planning Commission. Minutes were not approved due to not holding an April meeting but a motion could be contingent on their approval at the next meeting. This was no fault of the applicant (Verizon).

Sale of Township Properties: Offers have been presented to the board for consideration.

State of Emergency Resolution: On March 31 the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services allowed the Township to conduct an open meeting without the limitations imposed by the prior MDHHS Orders (i.e., no more than 25 persons are gathered). As a result, the Township can return to having in person open meetings, without limiting the meeting to 25 persons. Virtual meetings are only allowed if there is a state of emergency or state of disaster declared by a local government. As a result, unless the Township declares a State of Emergency (or Oakland County does), we have no legal authority to meet remotely. Obviously, the County may act to declare a State of Emergency, but no action has been taken since MDHHS amendment. Several neighboring communities have passed emergency orders.

Other Township Business:

Historic District Commission (HDC): The HDC has requested that the township board consider approval to set up a fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester. This will be on a future agenda if there is interest by the board. HDC appointments will also be on an upcoming agenda.

Sheriff's Office: Lt Bernard will be retiring on April 30. He is replaced by Lt. Dooley. The Assistant Manager and I met with him this week. The township also has a new Sergeant, Sgt. Stevenson.

Planning Commission (PC): Due to the MDHHS order and technical limitations, the April 6 PC meeting was not held.

Safety Paths and Trails Commission (SPTC): This month's meeting was postponed until Thursday April 22, 2021. The commission plans to discuss maintenance on township safety paths.

Equalization: The township's assessor retired and has been replaced with Justin Cooke. He brings many years of experience and currently works in Rochester (for Oakland County). He is familiar with our township and attended the recent March Board of Review. Residents will be notified by mail of field work this summer with virtual options if requested.

Burn Permits: 2021 Burn permits are available online and in person. There is no cost for a permit.

Building: Spring building permits are active with home renovations, decks, pools, patios, garages, new home construction, and remodeling.

Treasury: The Treasurer's office completed the 2020 tax settlement.

Upcoming Items:

EMS Building Ribbon Cutting: April 22

Next Regular BOT Meeting: April 27

Sentinel Additional Summary Information on Board Agenda Items

VII- 1. Liquor license public hearing

This is an opportunity for public comment on this liquor license application. The location, 4505 Collins is at the end of the strip mall at the corner of Orion and Collins next to Greg and Jan Olson's little yellow house.

VII-2. Special Land-Use 1215 Stoney Creek Rd. (Cell-phone tower)

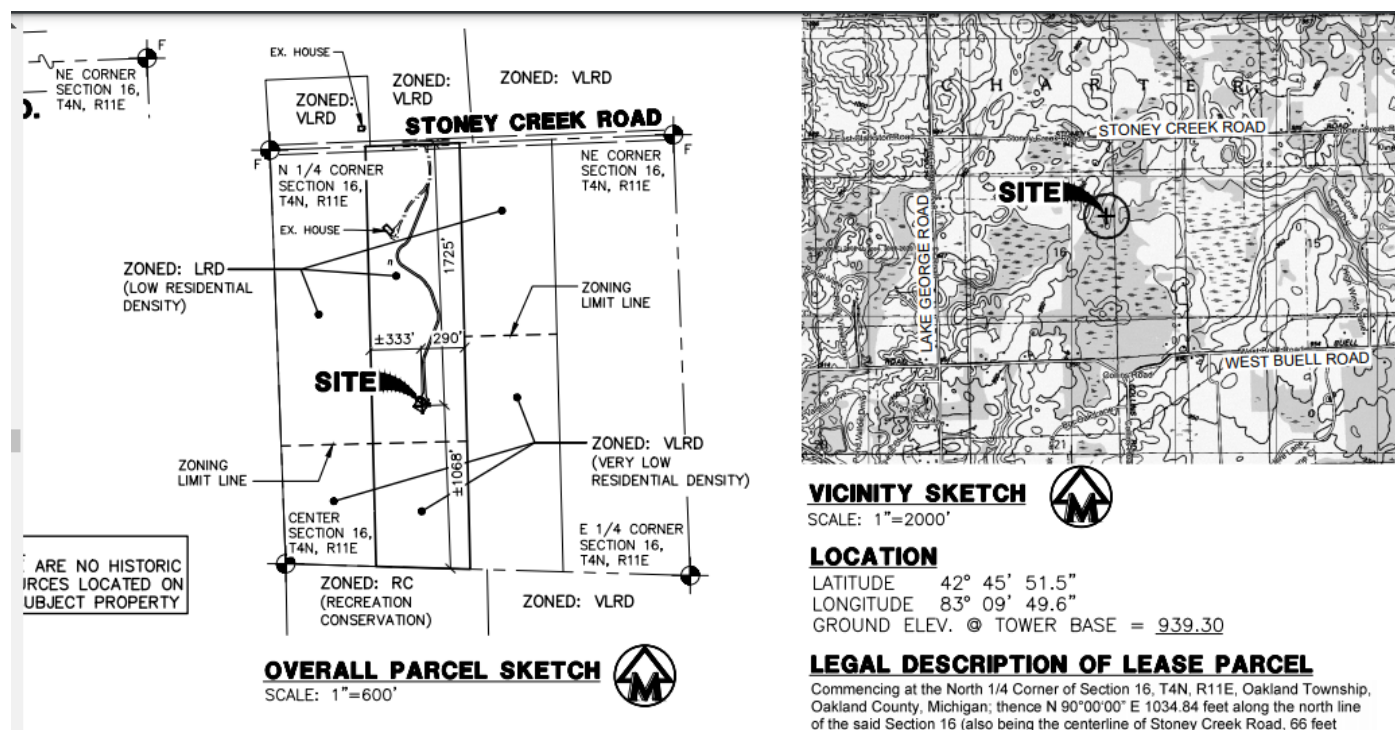
Verizon wants the Board to grant an exception to our tree ordinance so they do not have to spend \$100,000 to replace all of the trees removed to install this 195 foot monopine cell-phone tower. They cite that many of the trees are "junk" trees and removing them, in their opinion, actually

improves the health of the remaining more desirable trees. Our environmental consultants ASTI refutes the concept of “junk” trees being applied to any native tree species.

I suspect this item is the subject of the closed session, item #3. ***“To discuss a confidential legal opinion regarding interpretation of Township’s Zoning Ordinance and Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.”***

Another issue is that the Planning Commission did not meet April 6 so was unable to approve its minutes of March 2 that contained a motion on this issue.

Below is a schematic of proposed site from 2/23/2021 Board Meeting packet page 81 at this link: <https://www.ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/588831070.pdf>. This site borders on the far northeastern part of Watershed Ridge Park. The tower would be about 1000 feet north of the park property line, but likely not visible.



Resident sentiment on tree preservation is summarized in this chart below from the last Master Plan 9/2017 Appendix

Most Valued Elements of Oakland Township

(%4-5)

	Total Sample	Age			Years in Oakland Township		
		Under 45	45-64	65+	Under 10 Years	11-20 Years	21+ Years
Preservation of wetlands and trees	83%	89%	85%	79%	85%	84%	81%
Trails and Safety Paths	83%	91%	86%	76%	88%	82%	78%
Low density housing	82%	81%	84%	80%	81%	83%	83%
Road corridors with natural look	79%	76%	79%	80%	77%	80%	81%
Scenic vistas	79%	82%	80%	75%	79%	80%	78%
Discrete commercial signage (no electronic flashing/scrolling signs)	77%	77%	79%	73%	77%	79%	76%
Street and building lights that minimize light pollution	75%	74%	75%	74%	75%	75%	74%
Building height limited to no more than 2.5 stories tall	74%	69%	76%	75%	73%	76%	75%
Public parks and recreation facilities	74%	89%	74%	69%	83%	72%	67%
Goodison area	64%	66%	64%	62%	61%	65%	66%
Historic Sites	58%	56%	56%	63%	58%	56%	61%
Gravel roads	29%	34%	28%	25%	28%	26%	33%

Q 11 "Many residents have indicated a strong appreciation of Oakland Township's

December 12, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes p. 89

Proposed Legislation Affecting Woodlands

Director Milos-Dale reviewed information received from the Michigan Association of Planning. On November 8, 2018, Senate Bill 1188 was introduced. This bill would amend Public Act 110, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, and **would prohibit local government from adopting and enforcing tree and vegetation removal ordinances.** The bill was introduced in response to an incident in a single community and, if approved, would affect every municipality in the state. The Michigan Association of Planning opposes this bill and is urging communities to reach out to Senate Natural Resource Committee members and to their Senators.

(Editor's note: Some members of your state legislature hard at work to eliminate local control. "No one is safe when they are in session", as someone once said.)

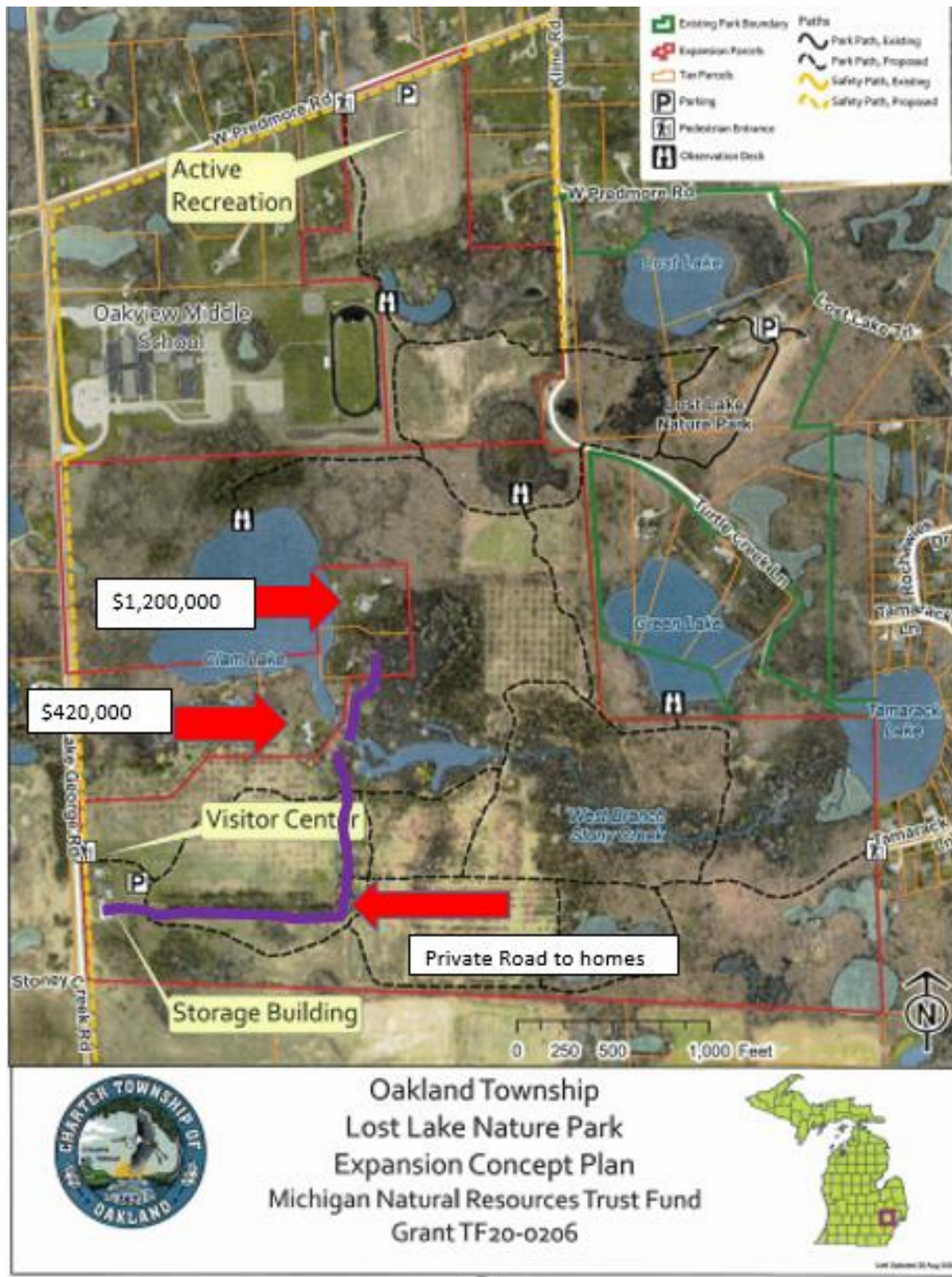
VII-3. Sale of Township Properties

I suspect there are offers for one or both of the two Township residential properties for sale on Clam Lake (1267 and 1285 Lake George Rd.) that had to be purchased as a package in the somewhat complicated transaction to get the 235 acres of park land. The Board decided to list these homes for sale. This cuts off public park access from the south side of Clam Lake.

Arguments can be made for both having and not having public access from the south. As far as I know, the public did not get to hear the arguments for the two options. As far as I know, the Board only deliberated publicly on the sales prices and real estate agent to use, not the pros and cons of selling or options of drawing the property boundaries to provide public access to Clam Lake from the south.

As far as I know, Parks and Recreation Commission made no motions to recommend keeping any or part of these two properties, or other schemes for public access from the south. I am reliably told, but did not confirm, that a member of Parks & Recreation staff sent a letter to the Board with some proposals for access from the south.

I suspect that closed session Item #2 deals with discussion of any offers.



Please consider addressing the Board with your comments. See the guidelines below from the website:

Addressing the Board

If you wish to speak at a Township Board meeting – to voice a concern, raise an issue, inform, or question an agenda item, please check the current agenda to see if your issue is already planned for discussion.

Typical Agenda Order:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call
- III. Announcements and Proclamations
- IV. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda
- V. Public Comment for items not on the agenda Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. Pending Business
- IX. Public Comment for items not on the agenda
- X. Township Manager's Report
- XI. Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees
- XII. Adjournment

If your issue is ON the agenda:

Once the item has been introduced, wait to speak until after the topic has been discussed by the Board and a motion has been made. After the motion has been made and seconded, discussion is open to the public.

If your issue is NOT ON the agenda:

Wait to be recognized by the Chair during the public comment portion of the agenda. All comments and discussion must be germane to Township affairs.

General Guidelines for Addressing the Township Board

- Wait to be recognized by the Chair, which is the supervisor, to approach the podium to voice your concern.
- Speak clearly into the microphone.
- Give you name and address after being acknowledged. If requested, please spell your last name.
- Please be courteous.
- Speak directly to the Chair. The proper procedure at a Board meeting is to address others at the table or other speakers "through the Chair".
- State your issue clearly and succinctly.
- Be specific. Make your announcement or address your concern, what was done or what you have already tried to do, and specifically what you want to see done to resolve the issue.
- Stay within the allotted time frame, when directed by the Chair.

Wednesday April 14, Parks and Recreation Commission, 7 PM

Charter Township of Oakland
Parks and Recreation Commission
OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
Wednesday April 14, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Oakland Township, Michigan

MEETING AGENDA

1. 7:00 PM Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and Roll Call
3. Announcements
4. Amendments to April 14, 2021 Agenda/Approval of April 14, 2021 Agenda
5. Invoice Approval: April 14, 2021 Invoices
 - a. For Approval: RecDesk Contract Amendment to Renew for 2021-2022 Term
 - b. For Approval: Purchase of Office Chair Replacements
6. Approval: Minutes:
 - a. March 10, 2021 Regular PRC Meeting
 - b. March 15, 2021 Special PRC Meeting
7. General Public Comment
8. COVID-19 Impact Update
9. For Approval: Selection of Contractor for Paint Creek Trail Northern Trailhead Project
10. For Approval: Annual Equipment Inventory/Items for Disposal
11. For Approval: Purchase of Shared Track Loader and Attachments
12. For Approval: Award of Insect Control Services Contract for 2021
13. For Approval: Farming Licenses for Blue Heron, Watershed Ridge and Stony Creek Ravine
 - a. Amendment 3 to 2018-2020 Agreement for Blue Heron Environmental Area
 - b. Amendment 3 to 2018-2020 Agreement for Watershed Ridge Park
 - c. Termination of 2021-2023 Agreement for Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park
 - d. Amendment 1 to 2021-2023 Agreement for Watershed Ridge Park
14. For Approval: Expansion of Stewardship Specialist Position
15. For Approval: Hiring of Part-time Clerical Assistant
16. For Approval: Hiring of Part-time Parks and Recreation Worker
17. For Approval: Purchase of Bleachers for Athletic Fields

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Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission

18. For Discussion: Summer Concert Series Planning
19. Project Reports:
 - a. Lost Lake Nature Park Expansion
 - b. Bear Creek Nature Park and Marsh View Park Restrooms
20. Park Director's Report
21. Commissioners' Reports
22. Closed Session: To Consider Privileged Attorney-Client Written Legal Opinions and Correspondence (MCL 15.268(h))
23. Adjournment

Parks and Recreation Meeting Procedures

All debate, comments, and conversation must be directed to the Chairman.

The Chairman must recognize each speaker before he or she speaks.

During debate on a motion, Commissioners are limited to speaking twice, for 10 minutes each (Robert's Rules).

All comments must be germane to the agenda item being discussed.

Each citizen is limited to speaking only 3 (three) minutes during public comment.

Citizen Public Comment is not a Q & A session.

No repeat comments.

No personal attacks.

Roll call on every divided vote.

Limit on citizen comment during Agenda items, 3 (three) minutes, once per agenda item, after Commissioners have discussed the item.

If there is a citizen who wishes to speak, he/she should stand behind the podium once the comment portion begins. If no citizens are in line to speak, the public comment portion will end.

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Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Events Next Week:

Wednesday, April 14 – Weekly Bird Walk, 8:30 – Cranberry Lake Park, 388 West Predmore, FREE, preregister on website referenced below (from page 7 of spring newsletter)

<div><div>Oakland Township Parks Natural Areas</div><div>Stewardship</div><div></div></div>	
<h3>Spring 2021 Natural Areas <u>Stewardship</u> Events</h3> <p>Please join us for one of our nature events! Updated information and any last minute changes to these events can be found on our Natural Areas Notebook website at oaklandnaturalareas.com.</p> <p>Pre-register for all Stewardship events at: https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com</p> <p>All minors must have a waiver signed by a guardian, and minors under 14 must be accompanied by a guardian.</p>	
<h4>Weekly Bird Walks</h4> <p>Join our friendly birders every Wednesday through May. We want to document the bird species using natural areas in our parks so that we can work to improve their habitat. All walks will start at 8:30 am. Please pre-register at oaklandtownship.recdesk.com. All participants will need to follow social distancing and other safety rules. Bird walks may be cancelled due to COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1st Wednesday of month – Bear Creek Nature Park2nd Wednesday of month – Cranberry Lake Park3rd Wednesday of month – Charles Ilsley Park4th Wednesday of month – Draper Twin Lake Park5th Wednesday of March – Lost Lake Nature Park	 <p>Bird watching at Oakland Township Parks</p>

Sunday April 18 – “The Buzz about Bees”, \$5-\$7, Ages 6-10, 10 AM – 11:30 AM, Cranberry lake Park, below from page 3 of spring newsletter, registration deadline Wednesday April 14.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation 2021 Spring Nature Programs Registration at: oaklandtownship.recdesk.com		
<small>The health of our community is our priority. Our team of staff and instructors are trained in safety protocol that follow CDC guidelines and are equipped with Personal Protection Equipment and gear (PPE). <u>All students and instructors must observe social distancing of 6 feet from others and wear a mask.</u></small>		
<i>The Buzz About Bees</i>	6-10 years old	
Sunday, April 18, 2021	10:00 - 11:30am	
<i>Cranberry Lake Park, 388 West Predmore, Oakland, MI 48363</i>		
<p>Without bees we wouldn't have most of the produce that we find in the grocery store, so we believe it's only fitting that we spend some time learning about these fuzzy pollinators of our parks! Join a naturalist beekeeper in their bee suit at Cranberry Lake Park to learn why we're buzzing about this topic! We will dress up as members of a hive and learn their roles, play a pollination game, read a story about a bee from our favorite bee puppet, and see a real honeycomb up close!</p> <p>Maximum 10 active participants. Residents: \$5 Non-residents: \$7 Register by: April 14</p>		

Link to Spring Newsletter:

http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/parks_and_recreation/docs/PRCSpring21Newsletter.pdf

Planning Commission

April 6th Planning Commission meeting was postponed.

This explanation is on the township website homepage.

Police / Sheriff Dept.

Sheriff Dept. Works to Prevent Baldwin Elementary “Car Line” from Causing a Head-on Collision at Collins & Bannister

Our own Lieutenant Bernard (retiring 4/30) was out personally directing traffic on 3/23 so it did not unsafely block Collins Rd. at Bannister. He was directing the car line to form in the township lot if necessary. Apparently many more children are being picked up by car and fewer riding the bus now, resulting in a car line from the school down Territorial, down Bannister and spilling out onto Collins on previous days.



Below a clip from a one minute video made on 3/13/2021 of a traffic jam and a white pick-up behind me getting impatient and crossing the double yellow line just as a car pulls out from Beatrice. The crash was avoided, fortunately. This was a time when the Sheriff's Dept. was not directing traffic.



Roads

Dust control for 2021-2022 to be \$75,000

See Board of Trustees draft minutes for 3/23/21 above, agenda item #5.

Gravel Road Program

This from Township Manager Adam Kline's 3/19/2021 Memo to Board of Trustees

"RCOC Gravel Road Program: I recently met with staff from RCOC and the township is still awaiting quotes for the 2021 gravel road program. This will be presented at an upcoming board meeting."

Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC)

April 7th SPTC Meeting Postponed